



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-075
Wednesday
17 April 1996

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Buwayz—Lebanon 'Might Accept U.S. Initiative'

NC1704093096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has announced that Lebanon might accept the U.S. initiative to stop the Israeli shelling operations after introducing some amendments to it. Arriving at Cairo Airport to take part in the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council in Cairo today, Buwayz clarified that Lebanon has not rejected the U.S. initiative. He said it contains some gaps that have not been filled yet. We believe some amendments must be introduced for it to become acceptable. Therefore we do not reject it, he said.

Inter-Arab: Lebanon's Buwayz Arrives, Views Plans To End Fighting

NC1704115296 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1010 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Cairo from Beirut this morning heading Lebanon's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, which will open at the Arab League later today.

Buwayz said on arrival that there are international moves and several initiatives are being taken concerning the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He said: The U.S. plan, proposed within a particular context, still has gaps. The plan proposes a new mechanism, which we fear may serve as an alternative to Security Council Resolution 425 and to the peace process. He added: The plan, therefore, is still being studied; we believe it needs modification and study for it to become acceptable. So the plan is not being rejected. However, we have reservations about its content.

Buwayz said the plan has several loopholes linked with several factors and parties. He noted that it concerns Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and various organizations.

Asked if the Lebanese Government intends to dissolve Hizballah, Buwayz said: The Lebanese Government adheres to its right as long as its territory remains under occupation. Lebanon is a democratic country and Hizballah, like every other political party, cannot be dissolved without conditions. As long as Israel continues to occupy Lebanese land, resistance remains a legitimate right.

Buwayz said: So far there have been no U.S. or French initiatives offering a solution to Lebanon's problem. The French foreign minister is paying a fact-finding visit

to the region to study the possibilities for a cease-fire initiative. The French foreign minister will continue his tour today by visiting Israel for consultations. In light of this France will decide whether to propose an initiative or not.

Buwayz stressed that all the initiatives revolve around one axis, namely, "Israel's abstention from attacking Lebanese civilians in return for the Lebanese Resistance not firing rockets at the Israeli border."

The Lebanese foreign minister said today's emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers is a decisive and very important meeting. He added: Lebanon will present its case to its Arab brothers and explain the Israeli aggression against civilians. Claims that the Israeli operations are a reaction to Lebanese Resistance acts are wrong. This is a planned, programmed Israeli action, because Peres needs a victory to support his election chances. The Israeli operations are being carried out against a backdrop of one-upmanship between the military and civilian authorities in Israel to win public support.

Buwayz said the new understanding between Israel and Turkey aims to besiege the Arab countries and what is happening in Lebanon now cannot be viewed away from the presence of Israeli planes in Turkey.

Buwayz said Egypt has always been an Arab stronghold with a long history of upholding Arab solidarity. Egypt has a major role that it must play in this regard, he said. He added: Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, on the instructions of President Mubarak, has held intensive contacts since the Israeli operations started. The contacts will continue in Cairo.

Asked why the Lebanese Army is not responding to the Israeli aggression, Buwayz said the Lebanese Army is performing its duty as its capabilities allow. He noted that these capabilities are modest compared with the Israel army's capabilities and advanced arsenal.

He said Lebanon experienced a long war that exhausted its military power and it does not have the advanced weapons that allow it to repel the aggression.

What we are asking the Arab League to do today, he said, is to express general solidarity with Lebanon. We may also seek any support from any side in repelling the aggression, he said.

Inter-Arab: Al-Shar' Arrives for Meeting, Says Hizballah 'Intact'

NC1704105896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1035 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo this morning heading a delegation that will take part in the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers that will open later today at the Arab League headquarters.

[In a related, Cairo-dated report, Paris AFP in English at 1045 GMT on 17 April adds the following: "The Hizballah movement has remained intact despite Israel's week-long blitz on Lebanon, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Wednesday [17 April].

"All of Israel's attacks have been unable to affect Hizballah's strength and not one member of this group has been killed," said al-Shar' as he arrived at Arab League headquarters for an emergency meeting.

"Hizballah itself has admitted to losing one member in the Israeli attacks which have so far killed 38 people and wounded more than 160.

"The widescale Israeli attacks on innocent civilians shows that Israel does not want to see a single stable, unified Arab country and has no good will towards its neighbours," al-Shar' added."

Inter-Arab: PLO'S Qaddumi Arrives for Arab League Meeting

NC1704073596 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0105 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the current events in southern Lebanon require the convening of an Arab summit to discuss the Israeli attacks on Lebanon and review the peace process in the region.

Qaddumi said that the Arabs are asked to take a stand of solidarity with the Lebanese people, noting that in the absence of such a stand Israel is suggesting that it does not want peace or negotiations with Syria.

He pointed out that Israel has signed military agreements with the United States and Turkey and is carrying out terrorist operations that are based on certain justifications. The United States does not object to this policy, he noted.

This came in statements Qaddumi made upon arrival at Cairo airport this evening to take part in the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meetings that start tomorrow, Wednesday [17 April; as received] in Cairo to discuss the Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Inter-Arab: Jordanian Minister Arrives for Meeting on Lebanon, Comments

NC1604202396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1930 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Khalid al-Madadiah, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit of several days to Egypt.

He will participate in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, which will open in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday.

He said upon arrival that Lebanon is a fraternal Arab state with which Jordan is linked by deep-rooted bonds.

He expressed regret for what is happening to innocent civilians in Lebanon. He noted that King Husayn asked Israel to put an end to the military operations and to return to negotiations, because these events do not serve the peace process.

He said Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will deliver to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during their meeting today a message from King Husayn stressing Jordan's demand for putting a stop to military actions and a return to negotiations.

He expressed hope that the Arab foreign ministers meeting will succeed and come up with a reasonable, realistic formula—not rhetoric.

Inter-Arab: Sudanese FM Arrives for Arab League Meeting

NC1704064196 Cairo MENA in English
0613 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 17 (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Uthman Muhammad 'Ali Taha arrived here this morning from Khartoum.

The Sudanese minister leads his country's delegation to the emergency session of the Arab League Ministerial Council, due to open today to discuss the current Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

Inter-Arab: Arab League Head Urges West To Be Flexible on Lockerbie

NC1704070696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2135 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that keeping the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Jamahariyah and continuing the Libyan-Western crisis will only lead to greater dangers to security and peace

in the region, as well as to international security and peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out in a statement he gave today that the seven-way Arab and five-way African committees concerned with the Lockerbie crisis have entrusted the Arab League and OAU secretaries general to coordinate efforts jointly in accordance with a working plan. The objective of the plan is to address the situation with the United States, Britain, France, and the other Security Council members, as well as with the OAU secretary general, to prevent any escalation of the crisis and find a peaceful and just solution accepted by all the parties concerned.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called on the three Western countries to respond positively and with flexibility to the Libyan stance and to react to the efforts and initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiations with the ultimate objective of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. He confirmed that the proposal contained in Arab League Council Resolution 5373, which stipulates that the suspects should be given a just trial by the Scottish courts and according to Scots law at the International Court of Justice headquarters in The Hague, is a positive proposal.

The seven-way Arab committee and the five-way African committee held a joint meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo on Thursday evening, 11 April, to discuss the latest developments regarding the Lockerbie crisis.

Inter-Arab: Arab League's al-'Allaf on Peace, Water, Hanish Islands

96AA0176A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
23 Feb 96 pp 29-31

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Muwaffaq al-'Allaf by Usamah 'Aja; place and date not given: "Commitment to the Syrian and Lebanese Tracks Is Supported by Geographic, Historic, and Security Considerations" — first paragraph is AL-HAWADITH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his first interview with an Arab magazine since taking on his new position as the Arab League's assistant secretary general for political and international affairs, our conversation with Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf covered everything from the special importance of the League Council's session on 13 March to the Yemeni-Eritrean crisis over Hanish Island. A great deal of time was spent on the Syrian-Israeli peace talks, especially since Ambassador 'Allaf had the portfolio of those talks for a long time and knows what is happening in them, the reality of the Israeli position, and the aims of the call for

early parliamentary elections in Israel, as well as the widely discussed marginalization of the Lebanese track. The interview also included the atmosphere of Arab reconciliation, and other issues.

['Aja] Let us begin with the special significance of the coming session of the League Council to be held in the second half of March. How do you assess its significance?

[Al-'Allaf] Let us agree that all the Arab League's ministerial councils are significant. I do agree with you, though, that the coming council of foreign ministers will be held in circumstances which have great importance for the Arab nation, most importantly what the Arab League feels, along with most of the Arab countries, which is the need to call for the spirit of solidarity, Arab reconciliation, and the readiness to face the great challenges confronting the Arab nation. There are some matters on the agenda of the next council which are related to this strong desire on the part of the Arab people everywhere, such as having solidarity back, and the charter of Arab honor, and the establishment of an Arab Court of Justice. These are two whole subjects, in addition to other issues. Those include some related to the peace process, support of the Arab League, both countries and peoples, to the demands of the Arab sides which are taking part in the peace negotiations, and the necessity of establishing a just and lasting peace in the region.

Hence there are strong indications of the importance of the next session, in light of the delicate circumstances the Arab nation is experiencing, requiring the solidarity which must be as strong as possible, enabling us to confront these challenges.

['Aja] Do you think the current atmosphere is conducive to the achievement of Arab reconciliation, given the multilateral contacts undertaken by countries active on the Arab scene?

[Al-'Allaf] I believe Arab reconciliation is essential even at the darkest hours, as we need peace when peace is denied, and when there is violence or hostility we need peace to eliminate the causes of the absence of that peace, and we need reconciliation when conditions are not normal. What we need is for the Arab nation to come together and unify and support one another. That was the reason the Arab League was established.

The current climate is not normal; while I may at no time say that this is not the time for Arab reconciliation, or not the time for restoring solidarity, the more the dangers and challenges mount, the more we need solidarity and reconciliation, which must be on a new basis, on a basis of overcoming the causes that led to

the fracturing of Arab solidarity in the past. In the end this is in the interest of all sides that benefit from the restoration of solidarity and reconciliation.

I would like to point out an important fact that this spirit has begun to gain more comprehensive support, especially on the part of many active and influential countries, and many Arab countries now convinced that the Arabs must restore their solidarity, and to some settlement of the disputes among them because what unites them is much greater than what divides them. They are united by a common destiny. If security is breached in one place, it will affect the other areas.

[A'aj] We think there can be little difference between your current responsibilities as assistant secretary general of the League, and your past role as head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks. Let us ask how you assess the recent rounds of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

[Al-'Allaf] From my new position, I may say the peace process is aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace securing Arab rights, and restoring rights to all who lost them. The peace process has gone on for more than four years, and has, on some tracks, reached total settlements, or some stage of the hoped-for settlement. But on some other tracks, nothing substantial has been achieved. The Syrian-Israeli negotiations were aimed at reaching a just settlement, and a comprehensive peace, but have not yet achieved actual results on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, despite the waves of optimism that appear every now and then. I believe we are now experiencing one of those waves, though it has been affected by setbacks dealt by contradictory Israeli statements so that a man practically feels there is an assigning of roles among the Israeli among Israeli officials. They are always trying to keep matters pending, perhaps to achieve political or internal or electoral goals, but thus far they continue to say that "Israel is serious," and that it wants to implement a true peace in the region.

We are all awaiting the results of the last trip of Secretary of State Christopher. All signs are that the U.S. sponsor is making a great effort to get the process going. We do not yet know whether he will succeed in his 17th visit to the region, especially given the contradictory statements of the Israeli officials. We may say once again that Israel wants to achieve peace and acknowledges that peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks is a basic condition for establishing prosperity, peace, and understanding in the region, but past experience does not encourage us to be optimistic in the long run.

On the Syrian side, I know, thanks to my former position, and I am sure, that Syria is serious in the peace process, and Lebanon has the same position. Peace is, indeed, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, a strategic option, which is in the Arabs' interest in general, and in Syria's interest, in particular. It is also in Israel's interest, to an even greater extent, and in the interest of the United States, Europe, and the world. Peace is not in the interest of one party because it makes possible a tomorrow free of threats. Hence it affects the interests of the great powers and the international community, as well as the interests of the directly-affected parties.

[A'aj] What is your reading of the Israeli statements regarding early elections? Do you think there is any pursuing of pressure on Syria to speed up arriving at a peace accord?

[Al-'Allaf] Elections in Israel, or even the United States, and if there were to be elections in Syria, should not be the basis upon which to build the positions of the parties to this peace process, which rests on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, in Syria's case, and 425 in the case of Lebanon. These resolutions must be observed and implemented regardless of whether any side will be holding elections.

On the contrary, we believe if there are early elections, then a commitment to legitimacy, and showing a serious and sincere desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace, would be the best election rhetoric. This would help to get past the election and win them. We do not forget, in this connection, that the Labor government ran and won against the Likud in the elections one year after the Madrid conference because the Shamir government was not serious about the peace process. Rabin was elected to make progress in the peace process.

If Israel tries to use the delay or moving up of the elections to put pressure on Syria, it will not succeed because Syria does not change its position; it does not abandon its rights for the sake of other parties' electoral considerations. I hope Shim'on Peres will win the election and be quick to respond to international legitimacy, and to the steps remaining to enable the establishment of the comprehensive and just peace in the region. At that point, I think, Israeli voters will choose the Labor Party because peace is what everyone is what all the peoples of the region want.

[A'aj] There are those who say the Lebanese track is being marginalized in the interest of the Syrian track.

[Al-'Allaf] That is, as usual, an attempt to divide the Arab tracks and split them. This is what Israel and other parties have tried to do in the past, before reaching the agreement with Jordan and the Palestinians. We have

always said that the goal of the Madrid process was a comprehensive peace and that Syria would not agree to sign a separate peace without the other sides. This is still the Syrian position. While there is a commitment among the Arab peace tracks, it is clearer in the case of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, in view of geographical and historic considerations, and the close ties between the two peoples, and because of security considerations. So there can be no peace and stable security in any track, given the existence of the security imbalance in the other track, and the leaders of both countries have confirmed this.

[Ajaj] Let us consider the role of the Arab League in a number of current political issues which represent a challenge to the Arab nation, such as its role in the peace process. It is noteworthy that the League is not undertaking any role in this field.

[Al-'Allaf] Unfortunately, this is not an era of support for global or regional organizations. When we refer to the absence of the Arab League, we must point out also the absence of the United Nations, which has no participation in the peace process, even though it is responsible for maintaining global peace and security. The Security Council is not a participant, even though the Madrid conference was based on its resolutions. The United Nations has not participated, and has been allowed only the role of "silent observer." That is due to Israeli stubbornness and pressure, and the fact that they accuse the UN of being hostile to it. The Arabs accepted that, in order to give peace a chance. The close the door on any Israeli pretext or excuse. The absence of the UN has not inclined Israel to prove its seriousness more than it was doing when the UN was meeting and holding the conferences under its sponsorship.

The Arab League, as a regional organization, embodies joint mass Arab action, and should have played a greater role in this subject. We are now experiencing a global situation in which a single superpower dominates world issues. This global power ensures the attainment of results through limited participation, and avoiding getting into prolonged talks and discussions among the directly affected parties but in which parties not directly affected do participate.

These concepts led the Arab side to accept the idea of the Madrid conference, and the directly affected parties include the sponsorship of America and the former Soviet Union. It is a known fact that America is the sponsor that which is undertaking the more active role with its relations with the disputing parties. In this case, the Arabs wanted to give peace a chance.

Despite that, the League is engaging in a role of support and coordination, expressing the Arab side, which seeks

a comprehensive and permanent peace, to turn the region to economic development, prosperity, and the building of a new tomorrow in which all efforts will be directed at progress.

[Ajaj] What is the Arab League's position on the water issue and its quest to coordinate the positions of Syria and Iraq toward Turkey's water projects?

[Al-'Allaf] This is the Arab League's role in defending Arab rights when they are exposed to danger. It is a dual role in this specific issue. It wants to defend Arab rights, and also to maintain the traditional historic relations between Turkey and the Arab world. It is the Arab League view that it is not in the interest of Turkey itself to do all it can to expose this traditional history of friendship and cooperation between Turkey and the Arab world to danger.

We believe Turkey's undertaking to build dams will affect the quantities of water reaching Syria and Iraq through two international rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. They are subject to international law and well-known charters. International rivers are subject to international regulations and laws which safeguard the rights of the littoral countries. Turkey cannot say that this river springs from its territory, and thus they can dispose of it as they choose. If thing went that way with other international rivers, we would have seen innumerable struggles and disputes.

All countries must submit to international law and the UN and to international charters, especially when they are neighboring countries which have relations and seek to maintain them and which seek to participate in a bright tomorrow in the region, after the stabilization of security and peace, and to take part in economic cooperation and development. These countries should not cloud that ideal, and not undertake such acts.

This is the basis of the Arab League's support for the position of Syria and Iraq on the Euphrates and Tigris issues and the Arab League's readiness to sponsor any coordination of this Arab effort to reach, with Turkey, an understanding which respects international accords and serves the historic rights of the countries bordering those rivers.

[Ajaj] What is the League's position on the Hanish Island crisis between Yemen and Eritrea, which almost became an Arab-African crisis?

[Al-'Allaf] I do not think intervention in the commendable efforts would harm either side. When the Arab League intervenes, it supports what it sees to be just. This is not only the League's position but that of other Arab sides which had their say in these disputes.

In general, we oppose separate unilateral measures which sometimes happen and create a problem to distract the Arab nation from the greater problems afflicting it and whose effects it is still fighting to erase. We believe that even if there were points of view requiring study, or a problem requiring a solution, the charter of the UN and all regional organizations call for the resolution of problems through peaceful means. There should be no resorting to force to impose solutions, and the Arab League supports the right of every Arab side open to attack. In this problem, it took the same position.

[Ajaj] What is the League's position on the Lockerbie crisis, especially as you took part in the negotiations of the international committee studying the crisis in its legal context?

[Al-'Allaf] I have not been assigned any specific task in connection with this subject, though I did attend meetings of the committee seeking an acceptable solution, in the framework of international law and the UN. We see no point in prolonging this regrettable crisis, especially since Libya has shown its readiness to submit to the United Nations and offered ideas supported by the Arab League. Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has offered ideas which, in our view, had they been adopted, it would have been possible to reach a solution for this crisis in an acceptable manner, achieving justice, and at the same time respecting Libyan sovereignty.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Popular Forces Alliance Statement on Israeli 'Aggression'

JN1604161596 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian
Arab Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Statement by Alliance of Palestinian Forces; place and date not given: "Zionist Aggressions Against Lebanon"—recorded; read by al-Quds correspondent in Damascus]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A political statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF].

The new Zionist aggression against Lebanon, which left scores of dead and wounded, mostly women and children, and which forced hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens from more than 90 cities, towns, and villages to leave their homes in southern Lebanon and move toward Beirut and Tripoli is an attempt by the Peres government to strike at the steadfastness of the

Lebanese people and their nationalist Islamic forces, defeat their persistent resistance, attack the power of mujahid Hizballah, and maintain the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and western al-Biq'a in a bid to undermine the steadfast Syrian position.

The new Zionist aggression, in which all air, sea, and ground weapons were used, including internationally banned weapons, would not have taken place without the support and backing received from the U.S. Administration and several West European capitals, and the Sharm al-Shaykh summit and its results. This exposes anew the reality of the huge international conspiracy, not only against Lebanon but against all forces and countries that reject and confront the U.S.-Zionist aggressive policy against our Arab and Islamic nations. This conspiracy aims, among other things, to impose the U.S.-Zionist domination on the resources of the Arab area and control its peoples and the future of its generations through establishing the so-called Middle East order at the expense of the Arab nation and its pan-Arab identity.

We in the APF emphasize our support for the fraternal Lebanese people and their struggling forces, headed by Hizballah. We place all our capabilities at the disposal of the comrades-in-arms and the brothers in the same trench, and with us the masses of our Palestinian people in the homeland and the diaspora in order to stop and defeat the Zionist barbaric aggression against Lebanon. We urge Arab forces and all dynamic forces in the Arab and Islamic nations and all free peoples of the world to support Lebanon in its current ordeal and force the Zionist enemy to stop its aggression and respect the July [1993] understanding without amendment or change and to force it to unconditionally implement the Security Council Resolution 425 in a manner that preserves the Arab image and national independence of Lebanon and its sovereignty over the whole Lebanese territory.

[Signed] Alliance of Palestinian Forces

Palestinian Affairs: Envoy in France Says Peace Process at Risk

LD1604151296 Paris France-Info Radio in French
1215 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] France-Info interviewed Layla Shahid, Palestine's delegate general in France. On the sixth day of Operation Grapes of Wrath, Israeli helicopters this morning shelled the Palestinian refugee camp of Ayn el-Hilweh, near Sidon. In the opinion of Layla Shahid the peace process in the Middle East is under threat:

[Begin recording] [Shahid] I believe that the Israeli army is using the civilian population as a scapegoat for

attacks carried out by a minority, whether it be Hizballah or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and in both cases this is a collective punishment, which, in fact, plays into the hands of the extremists.

[Unidentified correspondent] And once again, the Palestinians in the camps in the Lebanon are being targeted?

[Shahid] Today they are.... [pauses] In any case, they have already been targeted by the recent shelling of the town of Tyre, and then this morning the camp of Ayn el-Hilweh, at Sidon. You know, it is very difficult to separate out the poor populations of Lebanese and Palestinians in southern Lebanon. The camps are shanty-towns in the Lebanese towns, and I believe that it is a tragedy that half a million Lebanese and Palestinians have already taken to the road and the world has barely reacted to this. I find it scandalous in particular to see that we are not hearing the voice of the power which is usually the sponsor of the peace process — the voice of America — and it is in a way because it is bolstered by this support that the Israeli army is still continuing its action on the sixth day of its shelling of Beirut and southern Lebanon.

[Correspondent] You say that Shim'on Peres is taking military decisions. What can Yasir 'Arafat do today?

[Shahid] I believe that Yasir 'Arafat today is displaying complete solidarity — and furthermore, he has declared it — with the Palestinian and Lebanese populations which have been suffering the shelling for six days now. I believe that he also called for a meeting of the UN Security Council. I believe that it is now time for the international community, and in particular Europe...[pause] And I am gratified by the speed with which President Chirac reacted by sending Mr. de Charette...[pauses] He must be given the time to report on his tour and the meetings he has had, and I sincerely hope that the Security Council will meet, as it is doing now, and will make a decision on an immediate cease-fire. Otherwise I believe that we really could end up burying the peace process which we began three years ago. [end recording]

**Palestinian Affairs: Commentary—U.S.
Encouraging Israel To Continue Operations in
Lebanon**

TA1604183796 *Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic*
16 Apr 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Peres Undermines the Foundations of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli's expansion of its aggression against Lebanon, which has caused the migration of about 250,000 Lebanese residents from the south,

has no connection whatsoever with the climate of peace that is supposed to be hovering over the region. Israel's air raids in the south, the destruction of homes, and the killing of innocent people prove that the region's climate is that of war and devastation. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement that the Israeli bombardment of Beirut and south Lebanon is legitimate self-defense was tantamount to pouring salt in a wound. Thus, the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, is backing the Israeli position. This pro-Israeli U.S. bias encourages Israel to continue its military operations against Lebanon and its sovereignty over Lebanese land. It also foils all efforts being exerted by the Arab states and some European countries to halt this grave escalation in the military operations. The hope was that the U.S. Administration, as sponsor of the peace process, would shoulder its responsibility and pressure Israel to exercise self-restraint and declare a cease-fire as soon as possible.

The problem on the Lebanese-Israeli track cannot be solved by military means. Israel went through this experience in the past and did not succeed in achieving peace to enable the residents of north Israel to live in safety and security. The only solution that will lead to peace lies in ending the occupation of parts of Lebanese territory and withdrawal in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425, whereby the Lebanese army — with the help of the United Nations — would replace the Israeli army. Then, the Lebanese Government will be able to disarm all the militias in the south, including Hizballah. This is the only way to restore the previous situation and convince Israel that military force does not serve its goals and that return to quiet diplomacy is the best way to end the conflict.

The Israeli Government has no right to carry out these military operations for electoral purposes. Punishing the Lebanese people to convince the Israeli people that their government is resolute and can retaliate on Hizballah is not a wise decision. And the propaganda campaign that says that blockading Lebanon and striking at its people is essential for the success of Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in the upcoming general elections at the end of May is rejected, because there is no point if Peres wins the elections and loses the peace process. What is happening in Lebanon prepares the ground for rejecting settlements and is a loss to the advocates of peace. The enemies of peace consider the events in Lebanon a victory for them and their plans. Peres has to decide which is more important: winning the elections at any price or preserving the foundations of the peace process and advancing it in the right direction. What is occurring in Lebanon is not in the long-term interest of

any of the parties. Israel is wrong if it believes that what is happening in Lebanon is the shortest way to peace.

For violence breeds only violence, leads to the escalation of the conflict, and increases emotions of anger and extremism. The Arab people, amid frustration, are asking about the nature of the peace which Israel is seeking. The Arab governments are embarrassed and cannot justify what is happening in Lebanon while observing that Israel is providing fodder to the enemies of the peace option. The Israeli military operation's only result will be to undermine the peace process and kindle feelings of revenge. Hatred will lead us back to the beginning of the conflict. Is this what Israel wants?

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat To Meet With Peres 19 Apr

JN1704062796 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0500 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on Friday [19 April]. They will discuss the means to rescue the Palestinian-Israeli peace track as well as the Palestinian demand to lift the arbitrary Israeli siege of Palestine and Tel Aviv's failure to implement the agreements concluded with the PLO, particularly those pertaining to withdrawal from the city of Hebron, the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons, and the confiscation of land.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Returns, Says Cairo, Tunis Talks 'Constructive'

JN1604193296 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo today were constructive and important.

In statements he made upon returning to the homeland this afternoon, his excellency said his talks with President Mubarak focused on the latest political developments in the light of the continued Israeli siege against Palestine and the Israeli attacks against the Palestinian camps and Lebanese towns and villages for the sixth consecutive day.

President 'Arafat said his talks in Tunis yesterday with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali were also constructive and important. He said he discussed with the Tunisian president the Palestinian people's suffering as result of the continued Israeli repressive siege and its effects on the peace process.

The president also confirmed that he held talks with members of the Fatah Movement Central Committee

to discuss the forthcoming meetings of the Palestine National Council.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Reportedly Approves Return of All PNC Members

JN1704072996 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0520 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Report by 'Urayb al-Rantawi in Amman; from the "A New Day" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking Palestinian official said the National Authority [NA] has obtained Israel's approval of the return of all Palestine National Council [PNC] members without exception. The NA was informed of this approval last night. Israel also allowed 100 observers to attend the PNC's 21st session. This was confirmed by a Palestinian official who preferred to remain anonymous.

It is well known that the PNC is tentatively slated to convene on 22 April. High-ranking Palestinian officials and the PNC presidency had earlier set 18 April as the final date for the Israeli approval. Otherwise, the Palestinian leadership would be forced to set another date and venue for the convocation of the PNC's 21st session.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Notes Israeli Approval of Return of PNC Members

JN1704102196 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said preparations are underway to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] if all members attend.

During the inauguration of a public square named after the United Nations in Gaza this morning, President 'Arafat told reporters that some lists have not yet been finalized. The president noted that Israel approved in principle the return home of all PNC members. He, however, asserted that the steps taken in this regard are still slow.

Regarding developments in Lebanon, President 'Arafat said: Our position is clear. We are against aggression against the fraternal Lebanese people and the Palestinian camps in southern and northern Lebanon. President 'Arafat also spoke about the Israeli siege, which has continued for over two months in an attempt to subjugate the Palestinian people, deny them work, and avoid implementing the signed agreements.

Terje Larsen, coordinator of UN activities, thanked President 'Arafat and the National Authority for this

gift. He said the United Nations will continue to help the Palestinian people and expressed pride in serving them.

Palestinian Affairs: Qaddumi Says Will Not Attend PNC Session if Held in Gaza

NC1704082396 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0710 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 17 Apr (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, the head of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that if the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting is held in Gaza, it will be illegal because this means that the session will be held under occupation. He stressed that this is his private opinion and that he will continue to hold this opinion.

Qaddumi gave an exclusive interview to MENA in Tunis before departing for Cairo to take part in the emergency meetings of the Arab League Ministerial Council to discuss the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. In it he said that the Council meeting is supposed to take place outside Gaza, in Cairo, Tunis, or the Arab League headquarters for example, because most of the PNC members live outside and it is better and easier for them to meet in Cairo or Tunis.

Qaddumi stated that he will not take part in this meeting if it takes place in Gaza and will not enter it unless the Israelis leave the occupied Palestinian territories. He noted that his stance is a political stance.

He said that he does not accept amendment of the Palestinian National Charter and that Israel's demand to amend this Charter is a subject that should not be broached. He described this as nonsense and wondered what Israel has offered the Palestinians for them to take such a step.

Palestinian Affairs: U.S. Bill Relieving Palestinian Goods of Duties Reported

JN1704085596 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0500 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. House of Representatives endorsed a bill authorizing President Bill Clinton to cancel or reduce custom duties on goods imported from Palestine. The bill was referred to the Congress after it was ratified without any deliberation.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Rujub Accuses Jordan of Supporting Hamas Activities

TA1604155496 *Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic*
13 Apr 96 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nicosia, QUDS PRESS — A senior Palestinian security source has announced

that in the next few days the National Authority will reveal documents in its possession which confirm Jordan's involvement in the support of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activities, especially the recent bombings that occurred in Israel and for which the Hamas military apparatus — the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions — claimed responsibility.

Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, in charge of preventive security in the West Bank, said that there is irrefutable evidence — corroborated by Palestinian security service interrogations of detained Hamas activists — confirming that the instructions received by the movement's military apparatus come from the Hamas leadership in Amman.

Al-Rujub added that the Palestinian security services possess recordings of telephone conversations by the Hamas leadership in Amman as well as videos and recordings of confessions by Hamas detainees, in addition to documents and letters.

The security official accused Jordan of sheltering Hamas leaders, relying on "the naive Israeli position that calls for restoring the Jordanian option in the Palestinian territories." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: People's Party Decides To Participate in New PA Government

TA1604130296 *Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic* 15 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — With a simple majority, the Central Committee of the Palestinian People's Party has decided to accept the invitation to participate in the new government. President Yasir 'Arafat urged the party's representative in the PLO Executive Committee, Sulayman al-Najjab, to participate in the Palestinian Authority [PA] government that will be formed within the next few days. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: 'Sources' Expect Clinton, Husayn, Peres Summit Soon

TA1604134896 *Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic*
15 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A tripartite summit attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton, Jordan's King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is expected to be held shortly. Diplomatic sources say that the tripartite meeting will enhance Jordanian-Israeli cooperation with the aim of developing the signed peace agreement. The sources add that this summit might discuss the possibility of proclaiming the formation of a new pact

in the Middle East. Turkey, which has close relations with Israel — to the point of an alliance — will join this pact.

Algeria

Algeria: Security To Be Stepped Up in Algiers, Oran, Annaba

LD1604150796 *Paris Radio France International in French* 1230 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The political dialogue in Algeria may lead to a national conference. That is what the secretary general [Boualem Benhamouda] of the FLN [National Liberation Front] has said. He met with the head of state [Liamine Zeroual] yesterday.

In a separate development, the Algerian government has announced that security is to be stepped up in the three main ports of the country, namely Algiers, Oran, and Annaba.

Algeria: President Receives Leaders of FFS, Ennahda Movement

LD1604143596 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic* 1200 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the president's office this morning President Liamine Zeroual received Seddiki Debili, secretary-general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], and Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Ennahda Movement. The meeting was held within the framework of the national dialogue to which political figures and leaders of political parties and organizations were invited to exchange views.

Algeria: FIS Accuses Zeroual Regime of Terrorizing People

LD1604141996 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1306 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, April 16, IRNA — The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Tuesday [16 April] called on the head of the military-backed Algerian regime, Liamine Zeroual, to release its two detained leaders Abbasi Madani and Ali Binhaj and begin talks with them to end the crisis in Algeria.

But FIS also accused the Western-backed regime of carrying out terrorist acts against the people.

"The Algerian people were awaiting that Mr. Liamine Zeroual would follow on his election promise to seek a solution to the political crisis through a serious dialogue with all the political sides," said a FIS statement faxed to IRNA from Germany.

But the people were surprised by the rise of "organised terrorist acts by the regime's apparatus in the villages and cities," it noted.

Zeroual, who was elected as president in last November's poll, had pledged to end Algeria's civil strife through dialogue with opposition parties.

The statement urged Algeria's political parties and figures to exert all efforts in finding a political solution to the crisis which began in January 1992 when the Algerian regime scrapped general elections which FIS was poised to win.

FIS also appealed to the international community and organisations to condemn the terrorist acts against citizens and to encourage a political solution for the return of peace and stability in the Muslim country.

Early this month, Zeroual invited opposition leaders for a dialogue but excluded FIS.

Over 35,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the crisis started.

Algeria: EL WATAN Director on Probation for Report on Sifi's Brother

LD1604122596 *Paris Radio France International in French* 0630 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the director of the independent daily, EL WATAN, was put on probation on Sunday [14 April]. The paper had published a report on the arrest of the brother of former Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi. The probation order was for, I quote: undermining a constituent body.

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1204124196 *Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English* 9 Apr 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; double parentheses denote source's use of brackets; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The blessing in the absence of the FIS From the "Show"!

The political scene in Algeria has witnessed this past few days what some observers are prematurely calling "a political initiative". The initiative consists of Gen. Zeroual inviting about fifty people for bilateral "exchange of views" on how to get Algeria out of the crisis beside other "technicalities".

The list established by Gen. Zeroual does not contain any FIS representative. It is important to note that Gen Zeroual is totally free to invite anybody he likes or

dislikes but what is a bit peculiar is the comments of some local and international news agencies known for their "unconditional media support" to the military regime in Algeria. According to them, the future of Algeria will be decided without the FIS. Frankly this is another phantasm that time will once more prove it can not extend any further from its natural domain which is the imaginary of those who want to dream. Going back to reality that does not disappear even after one closes his/her eyes or try to look in another direction. All honest observers testify that all difficulties in front of a just solution are to be put on the military regime side, unequivocally. The FIS as it has been in "its tradition", has proved to Allah, the Algerian people, all the muslims and to History that it is the one which has been seeking a just solution that would spare additional bloodshed. The uncompromising stand of the military regime, motivated by a desire to remain in power for eternity and coupled with a secured external unconditional support, is the principal cause of the Algerian tragedy. No matter how hard some people such as the above commentators try to alter facts of these very near past few years. The Algerian people have not got that short of a collective memory despite the military regime powerful propaganda machine that would have made even communist Albania of the seventies, jealous.

As for "Gen. Zeroual initiative" it is too early to really talk about it. However, the absence of the FIS in this kind of talk is a blessing. The participation of others is important as each one will take its responsibility in front of the Algerian people and History. As for those amongst them who are already and discretely asking for the FIS support in eventual future elections, they are behaving as if in a funeral of a living and kicking being, asking for a part of the heritage. May Allah forgive them. And may forgiveness come also from all those who have paid with their blood, honour, wealth and in their flesh and bones, their relation in a way or another, to that now more than a mere political party but a historical sigle: the FIS.

As for the armed struggle, nothing tangible has come to heal its real causes and therefore it is continuing despite those who pretend not to see it or not to hear it and also those who pretend to diminish from its legitimacy by calling it "terrorist", "fellagha", "bandits de grand chemins" or something else. The caravan will continue its journey insha Allah!

As for the Mujahidin it is business as usual besides a vast consultation for a new start following late developments on the ground. For them, the "exclusion of the FIS from the show", as one of the regime

newspaper ("L'AUTHENTIC") put it, is also a blessing. May Allah unite them in His straight path. Amine!

The military regime in deep need of "the flesh for canons"!

According to the French magazine "L'EXPRESSE" of the 03 April 1996, the military regime in Algeria has decided to maintain 15000 reserve troops in service for an undetermined period. These troops have in principle finished their mandatory military service and should have been out by the end of 1995.

"L'EXPRESSE" also reports that 10000 other reserve troops who have finished their service between four and eight years ago have been summoned to rejoin their respective army units by March the 31st, 1996.

"L'EXPRESSE" notices that this is happening at the same time as the pretention of the military regime to be in control of the situation.

The price to pay for a French official insider speaking out against the unjust French policy toward Algeria!

A high French officer working in the foreign ministry (Quai d'Orsay) in Paris has been suspended from her job after having published a book under the title "La deuxième guerre d'Algeria" (The second war of Algeria) under the pseudonym of Lucile Provost. This book edited by Flammarion and which is critical to the French policy toward Algeria, was written by an ex-economical attache to the French embassy in Algiers. She was well aware of the financial flux between both countries following the coup d'Etat of January 1992. In her book, Lucile Provost defines the French policy toward Algeria as a "cosmetic (or artificial) non-intervention" (non-ingérance factice). She elaborates on the issue saying: "Paris attitude is to provide an unconditional financial support to the military authorities which have nullified the legislative elections which first round was largely won by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Not only this policy does not encourage the Algerian leaders to open dialogue with the laic and Islamic opposition but it also approves of an ever increasing oppression and exposes France to the risk of importing an Algerian terrorism," she added.

It is to note on the same track that France has approved this week the rescheduling of US \$1.5 billion of Algeria public debt. A gesture totally incommensurable with Gen. Zeroual invitation to bilateral talks with personality "to exchange views". People are asking where is the engagement of relating "economical assistance to tangible progress of democracy"!

Why is the military regime in a hurry gambling away the future of Algeria?

After a period of explaining to the Algerian people how good was for Algeria to take all its time before completing the very crucial deal of partnership with the EEC [European Economic Community], the official media has all of a sudden changed its mind after the official press agency APS reported a communique from Gen. Zeroual office where the General is asking his government to accelerate the negotiation with the EEC.

Observers are not relating Gen. Zeroual sudden great interest in finalising the deal, to President Chirac project of a mediterranean head of States summit since this was made public few days after Gen. Zeroual decision, unless....

However many observers see nothing unusually about this case given that since the coup d'Etat of January 92, the military regime has been taking vital and sometimes irreversible decisions concerning the future of Algeria without any debate from the Algerian people or through their real representatives and this has been happening not only in the economical field but also in the social (the case syndicate movement control and policing for example) and cultural domains as well (case of "latinisation" of the Tamazight language or the (re-) arrival of "Attaturkism" from the window, for example).

Some see in the rush of Gen. Zeroual a way to avoid a more serious debate on this vital issue within an eventual future parliament particularly when the EEC does not seem to be at all in a hurry finalising the deal. The military regime seems to take its precautions to avoid questions like: "What are you going to do with the Algeria's industrial network build with billions and billions in hard currency? Opening the doors as widely without prior precautions does not mean a spontaneous transformation of the network into an industrial cemetery? How about the future of the workers and the "industrial culture" accumulated in the past thirty years no matter how modest this may be? Would Algeria be a good place to live when it is confined to the sole role of extracting the pollutant hydrocarbons and "selling" the beautiful weather for hard currency, pollution and mores aggression? Why taking away all chances for the agriculture sector to take off when local products become astronomically more expensive to produce therefore to sell therefore to reinvest?

It seems that if a true representative parliament is elected today, the only remaining issue which it can

still debate will be wages of its members! News of Jihad and Mujahidin!

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight) because they are wronged, and verily, Allah is Most powerful for their aid" ((Koran Surat Al Hajj,22:39))

"Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits, for Allah loveth not transgressors" ((Koran,Surat Al-Baqara, 2:19)) "we don't like to "beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to "grab" the right of the people to freely choose." ((Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ALI BELHADJ in " Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dalm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers "). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992))

Communique from the AIS [Islamic Salvation Army]

In the name of Allah most merciful... Islamic Salvation Front Islamic Salvation Army Friday, 15 March 1996

Open letter to all Mujahidin unites to walked away from the Islamic Armed Group (GIA)!

Allah (S.W.T) Says: "Say thou: "This is my Way; I do invite unto Allah, with a certain knowledge, I and whoever follows me..."((Koran Surat, 12:108, Translation into English by -Yusuf Ali)).

The followers of the call (dawa) unto Allah and the Jihad for His sake, need to be aware of what is in the Book of Allah and the tradition (Sunnah) of the prophet (p.b.u.h) [peace be upon him] so that we do not deviate from the straight track set up by the prophet (p.b.u.h) when he draws a straight line on the sand and few deviant ones on its sides and said: "This is the path — of Allah and these are the paths of the devils. In each of those deviant line there is devil calling people to it. He (p.b.u.h) then recited the following Koran verse: " Verily, this is My Way leading straight: follow it, follow not (other) paths; they will scatter you about from His path..." ((Koran Surat Al Anam ,6:153, Translation into English by Yusuf Ali))

This is until we reach our declared aspiration which is the establishment of the Islamic rule on the land.

That is why the Islamic Salvation Army has refused since the beginning to seek a path without clarity or to work with a leadership unknown in the History of

the Islamic movement in Algeria, so that we may avoid wasting any time or falling into what others have fallen into. That is why we have insisted on the necessity of preserving our legitimate leadership at the head of which are Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj for whom is our trust in their knowledge of Islamic precepts, their abiding by the rightness, their steadfastness in Ahlu As Sunnah wul Ajamaa's path as well as their deep history in the Islamic movement in Algeria and which is known to everyone.

Today, and praise be to Allah, you have known, after your long journey in the organisation of the GIA [Armed Islamic Group], what we have been afraid of in terms of uncertainty. You have come to attest to yourselves and to us the well founded raison of why we insisted in preserving the historical leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front and its conception of the right methods for change in Algeria.

You [as published] position today, is a historical stand for correcting the Jihad path in Algeria. A Jihad which will be witnessed by all muslims, as that of honesty, correctness and courage. We hope you become a good example for all those sincere and faithful Mujahidin who may still be in the GIA, so that the power of Jihad will be strengthened and that all obstacles and difficulties may be eliminated for the big onset of Jihad in Algeria which we hope for it to be decisive against the ruling dictatorship in order to concretise for our people what they have chosen since the day when Islam came to the land of Algeria, with their belief, their freedom and their will (establishment of Islamic ruling in the light of the Book of Allah and the tradition (Sunnah) of the prophet (p.b.u.h)).

Allah Says: "But to those who receive Guidance, He increases their Guidance..." ((Koran Surat Muhammad, 47:17 translation into English by Yusuf Ali) Wa Salam Alaykum wa Rahmatu Allah wa Barakatu. The commander of wester regions Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha.))

Algerian women teach their brothers lessons in Jihad and Martyrdom?

It was reported this past year or so that more and more Mujahedate (women involved in Jihad) are shifting from sectors such as logistical support and medical assistance to military operations.

A Jihadic piece of news was published by the semi-official anti-Islamic paper, "LIBERTE" of the 04/04/96 (do not ask why it was not censored in accordance with the "law" and do not say it was not a "credibility boasting operation" after all it is not easy to hide the sun with the sieve each time it shines!). The bulk of the information was independently confirmed by eye-

witnesses. The news relate a heavy gun fighting which took place during the night of Wednesday/Thursday (03-04/04/96) between a group of Mujahidin composed of a WOMAN and three MEN and groups of hooded "Ninjas" and paratroopers. The place was the centre of the capital Algiers near the Government palace and many others ministries. The place is heavily populated and has been known to be relatively "secured" and this could explain why the information was "allowed to break the law".

The fighting lasted about eight hours according to some sources. The four Mujahidin were killed (may Allah accept them as Martyrs). The detail of the operation is not fully known particularly concerning the lost within the hooded "Ninjas" and paratroopers rank.

Other Jihad operations:

Boumerdess: An ambush was set up by the Mujahidin to an patrol in the locality of Reghaia. Four soldiers have perished. 4 kalashnikovs and a transmission equipment were collected. In another operation but near the locality of Bourj El Bahri the Mujahidin have attacked a group of military soldiers who were indulging in oppressing the disarmed people. Four soldiers have perished and four Kalashnikovs were collected.

Rais Hamidou: Two soldiers have perished.

Bouzereah: A soldier from the secret police has perished.

Casbah: A soldier has perished on the 01/04/96 in Sidi Abdellah street.

Algiers: Two soldiers have perished in Khemisti Boulevard on the 26/03/96.

Kalitouse: A soldier has perished and his weapon (a Berretta) was collected on the 23/03/96.

Boumerdess: In an ambush set up by the Mujahidin on the 22/03/96, a military vehicle BNP was completely destroyed by explosive near the locality of Douar Timzrit. 8 soldiers have perished in the operation. 8 klashnikovs were collected.

Ain Tarik: The Mujahidin have attacked an armed militia centre. One armed militia man was arrested and another wounded and the rest have run away.

Oued Rhio: In the locality of El Marja a big battle took place between about 600 soldiers (army, Gendarmerie and militia) and twenty Mujahidin. 11 Mujaheed have won Martyrdom Insha Allah amongst them "Ami (oncle) Bilal" who was killed. May Allah accept him as a martyr. He last words during the battle were "I have sold my self to the Mighty Allah".

50 soldiers have perished in the operation.

In the following day, two Mujahidin, Okba and Omar were killed (May Allah accept them as Martyrs) and 5 soldiers have perished.

Guelizan: An armed militia man has perished and his weapon (a Siminové) was collected near the locality of "Lahlalafe".

Setif: 12 soldiers have perished in the locality of Harabi.

El Harrach: 11 soldiers have perished in the last few days.

Ben Talha: 10 soldiers have perished on the 17/03/96.

Collo: In a crossfire between two militia groups related to Zitouna village. Two people from the Bouznada clan and two from Bousalsal were killed.

A heavy fire exchange took place near the locality of Lamsaskha between the Mujahidin and a soldier patrol. 7 soldiers have perished and a Mujahidid was killed may Allah accept him as martyr.

Algiers: On the 25/03/95, four soldiers have perished in "the Martyrs place".

The FIS radio "El Wafa" is back!

An Islamic newsletter reporting from one of the Mujahidin Katiba (unite) operating in Algiers and which has recently dissociated itself from the GIA after noticing the regime secret police deep infiltration into that organisation as well as the deviation from the straight path of its actual leadership and which does not want to repand, said that the "clandestine" FIS radio "El Wafa" will soon be back on the air.

It is to recall that this mobile radio station started to broadcast following the coup d'Etat and the massive scale repression against the people suspected to have links or sympathy for the FIS.

This radio which concentrated mainly on breaking the media blackout on the Mujahidin operations has remain almost until the end, faithful to the FIS and in particular to its leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj as its name shows (El wafa = faithfulness) and was under the responsibility of brother Abderazak Redjam (may Allah accept him as a martyr).

The conditions of "El Wafa" broadcasting cessation are obscure and not related to the military regime yet important jamming and detection operations.

The same sources announce that broadcasting will resume soon and should take place every wednesday at 6:30 PM local time.

May Allah makes it an faithful instrument which contributes to the Mujahidin real union as well as divulging the enemy plots and propaganda.

Egypt

Egypt: 'Arafat, Egyptian President Hold Talks on Closure, Lebanon

JN1604141096 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1300 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat held official talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo today. The talks centered on latest developments in Israel's continued closure of Palestine, the suffering of the Palestinian people from the unjust closure, and the impact of that closure on the overall peace process. The talks also tackled Israel's aggression on Lebanon.

The talks were attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, President 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, PLO Executive Committee spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, and Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah. On the Egyptian side, they were attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Egyptian Presidential Office director 'Usamah al-Baz.

Egypt: Musa Cited on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks, Lebanese Developments

NC1604134796 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic* 1230 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak held a closed meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat upon 'Arafat's arrival in Cairo from Tunis this morning. The talks discussed the latest developments in the peace process on the Palestinian track, developments in Lebanon, bilateral relations, and ways to support Palestinian self-rule.

Following the closed meeting an expanded meeting was held.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa later stated that the talks between President Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat touched on some of the many complicated issues relating to the Palestinian track.

In a statement following the talks Musa said they agreed to continue consultations to consolidate and maintain the peace process in line with the agreed-upon points, namely, the Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories in the West Bank, moving toward the final stage negotiations, and compliance by both sides with the agreements they signed.

Musa added that the two leaders discussed Lebanon extensively in view of the seriousness of developments there and because all the contacts conducted so far have produced no result.

Musa renewed the Egyptian demand to cease fire, protect civilians, and implement the July 1993 agreement honestly, taking into consideration that the Israel withdrawal from Lebanese territory in accordance with Resolution 425 is the best way to maintain security in these areas.

Touching on the emergency session the Arab League ministerial council will hold tomorrow, the foreign minister said the meeting is being held at Lebanon's request. He noted that Egypt supports the Lebanese demands, be they in the Arab League or at the United Nations.

On whether Israel's aggression against Lebanon violates the resolutions of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, Musa said: It was reiterated at Sharm al-Shaykh that any aggression or obstruction of the peace process ruins the favorable atmosphere for peace. The situation is very disturbing and diplomatic efforts have produced no result. But anything can happen any moment, he remarked.

The foreign minister pointed out that Egypt is in touch with the various parties, the Americans, French, and the Arabs. He said he has received two messages from the U.S. secretary of state and the French foreign minister on the outcome of their contacts, which have produced nothing so far.

'Amr Musa said: The Sharm al-Shaykh summit will be followed up by the foreign ministers within days. If the situation in Lebanon continues, the issue must be raised.

The foreign minister said that American contacts and mediation efforts are still under way with the Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Israelis concerning Lebanon.

On whether the Israeli stance is being influenced by electoral considerations, Musa said: Electoral motives exist during an election period. But we cannot say whether they are behind what is happening.

On whether the situation in Lebanon will affect the peace process, particularly since Arab demands will change, Musa said: The peace process has been halted. It depends on many factors: Lebanese, Palestinian, Israeli, and Syrian. He added that things are complicated and governed by many considerations that include the civilians, withdrawal, resistance, and the use of violence.

On the Israel withdrawal from Hebron, which was slated for 20 March and postponed until after the Israeli elec-

tions, the foreign minister said: The agreement provides for completing this job before the Israeli elections. Elections should not obstruct the implementation of agreements. Anyway, he added, contacts are under way in this connection.

On his visit to Turkey, Musa said he will meet the Turkish foreign minister in Luxembourg on Monday [22 April]. We will agree on the date of the visit, which might be the next week, he said.

Egypt: 'Arafat Leaves After Brief Visit

*NC1604144896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1340 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this afternoon, following a brief visit that lasted a few hours, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Palestinian president was seen off at the airport by Muhammad Zaki Abu-'Amir, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, and the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

Egypt: Mubarak Visits Near Libya, Discusses al-Qadhdhafi

*NC1304174896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1710 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Siwah, 13 April—President Husni Mubarak this morning inaugurated a natural water-bottling plant and an olive oil production unit connected with it in Siwah. This plant has been established by the national service projects department in the Armed Forces in the Siwah oasis. [passage omitted]

In response to a question on whether the establishment of the water-bottling plant near the Egyptian-Libyan border will lead to Egyptian-Libyan cooperation in the sphere of investment, President Mubarak said that Egypt always welcomes cooperation with Libya as a friendly and neighboring country. He said that the al-Jaghhub oasis is located near Siwah and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi hears me. He said that we have been talking for six years about the Libyans embarking on building a road from al-Jaghhub to Siwah to encourage both parties to enhance cooperation and work together to promote industries in both countries. He stressed that there are numerous spheres for cooperation and investment.

President Mubarak added: It seems that Col. al-Qadhdhafi gave instructions for building the road but that those in charge of the work have done nothing to date. I hope that Col. al-Qadhdhafi will hear me

and give instructions for building this road. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak has returned to Cairo after his brief visit to the oasis of Siwah.

Egypt: Libyan Plane Carrying Pilgrims to Jeddah Violates Airspace

NC1604192396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1900 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—An official source at the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority has stated that a Libyan passenger plane, a Boeing 727 carrying 115 Libyan pilgrims and heading toward Jeddah, entered Egyptian airspace without prior permission.

The source said the control tower men told the pilot not to continue the flight and to return to Libya, but he refused and continued on his way.

The source said Egyptian air control authorities are in contact with the pilot to convince him not to carry on with the flight, as Egypt is eager for the safety of the passengers.

Egypt: Libyan Plane Returns From Jeddah, Flies Over Egypt Again

NC1704081596 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0705 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—The Libyan airliner that transported the Libyan pilgrims crossed Egyptian airspace at around 0400 this morning coming from Jeddah on its return trip to Libya.

The plane took off last night from Tripoli heading for Jeddah through Egyptian airspace. In so doing the plane violated the air travel ban the United Nations has imposed on Libya.

A responsible official at the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority stated yesterday that the plane entered Egyptian airspace without permission. Air traffic observation officers asked the pilot to return but he continued his flight to Jeddah and refused a request to land at an Egyptian airport.

This is not the first time Libya has violated the air travel ban imposed on it; last year the pilgrims' plane violated Egyptian airspace as it transported Libyan pilgrims to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Egypt: Israeli Envoy Cited on Operations in Lebanon

NC1604142996 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan has affirmed Israel's preparedness to stop military operations against Lebanon if Hizballah responds and stops firing Katyushas at northern Israel.

Speaking to reporters today following a meeting with Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, political adviser to the foreign minister, Sultan said that Hizballah has not complied with the July 1993 on the ceasefire between the two sides. He added that this agreement has not protected the security of the two sides because of Hizballah's activity. He pointed out that Northern Israel was subjected to a wave of Katyushas in the first 10 days of April, before it mounted its recent operation.

Commenting on his meeting with Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, Ambassador Sultan said that they discussed bilateral relations and the present situation, with emphasis on Israel's activity against Hizballah in Lebanon.

Reacting to the criticism addressed at Israel because of the expansion of its military operations against civilians in Lebanon, Ambassador Sultan said that Israel's goal in these operations is to strike at Hizballah.

He pointed out that Israel forewarned civilians to stay away from the areas in which Hizballah forces are deployed.

Egypt: Cairo Radio Calls For Halting Israeli Raids on Lebanon

NC1304153596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Apr 96

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Giving up Territory in Return for Peace Is the Only Way To Provide Security for the Israeli People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question being asked in international and Arab circles and even in Israel by the peace-loving forces, which denounce the barbaric Israeli aggression against civilians in south Lebanon and the Beirut suburbs, is: Do the Israeli rulers really want to establish a fair peace with the Arab countries? If they do, why is there all this muscle-flexing against their neighbors? The latest bestial air raids and artillery and rocket barrages against villages in south Lebanon and the Beirut suburbs are a flagrant violation of Lebanon's national sovereignty. These acts of aggression have left many innocent and defenseless civilians dead or wounded.

If the Israeli rulers want peace, why did they freeze their negotiations with Syria until after the Israeli elections? Why are they imposing a total siege on the entire Palestinian people, a siege that has been imposed for more than two months despite international denunciation of this inhuman behavior to starve the entire people, not to mention other methods of repression, mass detention, demolition of homes, and humiliation of the Palestinians.

To answer these questions, we objectively say that the Israeli actions of late, the latest of which is the military campaign against south Lebanon and the Beirut suburbs, and the Israeli leaders' threats, raise big doubts about Israel's intentions. Moreover, these actions encourage the extremist forces on both sides, who reject the peace process, to continue their activities to hinder, or rather, to scuttle the peace process. More important, the Israeli rulers' actions will absolutely not provide security and stability for the Israeli people. On the contrary, every action brings a counteraction and the Israeli attempts to flaunt its power before the Arabs will only destroy confidence between the Arabs and Israel. The Israeli leaders should have learned this lesson from history. Force and nuclear power cannot impose a fait accompli on others.

Regrettably, the Israeli prime minister, in an attempt to justify the aggression against south Lebanon, said yesterday that peace with the Arabs will not be at the expense of Israel's security. Amidst his Labor Party's electioneering campaign against the rightist Likud Bloc, Peres forgets that the Lebanese Government is not responsible for providing security for the Israeli people, nor is the Palestinian National Authority responsible for this. The continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese territories is the *raison d'être* for all acts of violence by both parties that have happened and are happening. Therefore, giving up the territories, withdrawal from south Lebanon, the Golan heights, and Palestinian land, completing the peace talks on all tracks, and implementing the UN resolutions and the clauses of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement are the only way to end all forms of violence and terrorism and for providing security for the Israeli people and all neighboring Arab peoples.

Egypt, which believes in peace as its firm strategy, denounces the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and, at the same time, denounces all acts of violence by this or that party against civilians. Egypt demands that the Israeli air raids on the fraternal Lebanese people be immediately stopped for fear that the situation may be seriously exacerbated in this volatile region and demands that Israel withdraw from south Lebanon in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

More important, the Israeli rulers should reconsider their calculations so that the Israeli people may enjoy security and stability which can be ensured through resumption of the negotiations on all Arab-Israeli tracks on the basis of land for peace. Once again we emphasize that military power, alliances, nuclear threats, and exploiting Arab fragmentation will not help Israel to impose its will on the Arabs. Will the Israeli rulers reconsider their calculations before it is too late?

Egypt: Consultative Council Committee Condemns Attacks on Lebanon

*NC1704053696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2155 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—The Foreign and Arab Relations and National Security Committee of the Egyptian Consultative Council has condemned the Israeli forces' military operations against Lebanon. The Committee said these operations have exceeded all limits and once again returned the region to an atmosphere of war.

In its meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Dr. Mufid Shihab, the Committee stated that these operations will not realize any of the objectives that are being used as an excuse. In fact, the contrary will happen and these operations will have grave results. It is no longer possible to establish security through force; such attacks will lead to an explosion of counter-violence, which in turn will complicate matters even further.

The Committee said that realizing short-term objectives will cause great losses in the long run.

The discussions by the Committee members clarified that talk about regional cooperation at this stage in light of the Israeli practices becomes shrouded with many doubts in view of the fact that these attacks create a general psychological atmosphere in the Arab world that does not provide the opportunity for such cooperation. In actual fact, it supports the stances of the parties opposed to the peace process.

The Foreign and Arab Relations and National Security Committee of the Consultative Council called for a united Arab stance to stop these attacks and prevent their repetition.

The Committee saluted Egypt's stance which condemned the Israeli practices and expressed its complete support for the positive steps Egypt has taken and the contacts it has held with the international and regional organizations concerned about stopping the Israeli aggression.

Egypt: Perry's Threat 'Sheer Impudence'; Region Heading Toward War

NC1604165796 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
11 Apr 96 p 4

[From the "Weekend" column by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "Is the Region Heading Toward War?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab region is supposedly in a state of peace, or on its way toward peace. But this is only on paper. In practice — thanks to Israeli and American policies — the region is experiencing a state of war, or is heading toward war. If Israel had a 60 or 70 percent will for peace during the era of the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, this percentage has now sharply dropped.

The international peacemakers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh did not rescue peace. The Israeli siege on the Palestinians was not lifted, negotiations on the Palestinian and Israeli tracks were not resumed, and the daily Israeli air raids against southern Lebanon did not stop.

On the contrary, time will prove that the developments the region saw after the summit are many times more dangerous for the region's future and destiny than the desperate suicide operations that a group of Palestinians carried out against Israel — the operations that disturbed the world and drove it to convene the Sharm al-Shaykh summit. Foremost among these developments are the Israeli-Turkish military agreement and the expected strategic agreement between Israel and the United States.

Israeli is concluding the two agreements while still keeping its nuclear arsenal and refusing to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Israel is also concluding the two agreements under the shadow of:

—Continued international embargo against Iraq and U.S. adamant opposition to every attempt to ease the embargo to help the Iraqi people.

—A desperate U.S.-Israeli attempt to find strong, tangible evidence to justify a strike against Iran under the pretext of its support for terrorism.

—U.S. insistence on strengthening international sanctions against Sudan, despite the opposition of Egypt, which is the main party concerned with this issue.

—U.S. threats to attack Libya, under the pretext that it is building a secret chemical weapons factory.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry came to Egypt to sell this idea [of attacking Libya]. It seems U.S. policy still goes wrong in the case of Egypt; it imagines

that President Husni Mubarak can accept for himself or for his people and country to serve as a claw for the American cat, or any other cat, against an Arab or Islamic country, or against any country in the world for that matter.

Instead of the U.S. defense secretary respecting Egypt's rejection of a military strike against Libya, he announced, from Egypt, that Libya constitutes a threat to Egypt. This is sheer impudence. The only side to determine the sources of threat to Egypt and its national security are the people and leadership of Egypt, not the U.S. defense secretary.

The people and leadership of Egypt know full well who their friends are, even standing at a distance, and who their enemy's are, even if they wear a thousand masks.

At the hands of Israel and the United States, peace in the region has turned into paper peace. The region is heading toward a climate of war, and each party must bear its responsibility for this.

Egypt: Al-Baz Cited on Risks of Turkish-Israeli Agreement

NC1304190896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1840 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA) — Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has explained that Egypt intensified contacts with the general secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and a number of Arab states to reach a resolved position on how to confront the risks involved in the military agreement signed recently between Israel and Turkey.

Dr. al-Baz told ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine in an interview to be issued Monday, 15 April, that Egypt has requested Israel to provide it with details on the military agreement it signed with Turkey and on the objectives of that agreement. Turkey was also told that Egypt does not object to ties of cooperation with Israel, provided that Turkey takes the Arab interests and the requirements of pan-Arab security into consideration.

Al-Baz pointed out that the Turkish military agreement and the strategic agreement to be signed soon between the United States and Israel conflict with the peaceful disposition in the region. With these agreements, Israel will become a military power that imposes its domination on the region by the force of weapons, Dr. al-Baz said.

The Egyptian official warned that this will upset the balance and spread chaos and destabilization in the region.

Egypt: Mubarak Appoints New Air Defense Forces Commander*NC1704113796 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1100 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has issued a republican decree appointing Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Shahhat commander of the Air Defense Forces to succeed Ahmad Abu-Talib, who has been appointed ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Shahhat was chief of staff of the Air Defense Forces.

The president also issued a republican decree appointing Staff Major General Muhammad Nadir Muhammad Mustafa chief of staff of the Air Defense Forces. He previously occupied the position of chief of the Air Defense Training Section. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Cooperation Accords Signed With South Africa*NC1204090896 Cairo MENA in English
2112 GMT 11 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 11-(MENA) — Egypt and South Africa this evening initialed two cooperation agreements, the first covers the scientific and technological field while the other deals with technical and cultural affairs.

This came at the close of the meetings of the joint committee, held over the past couple of days under the foreign ministers of Egypt and South Africa. Speaking at the press conference held after the end of the meetings, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said discussions centered on the wide spectrum of relations, spanning 18 different fields. He added that the meetings mark a good start, hoping that they will help boost bilateral relations. The foreign minister praised South Africa's signing of the treaty rendering Africa free from nuclear weapons. He added that he discussed with his South African counterpart a number of political issues and problems facing Africa, stressing that discussions were constructive and objective.

South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo underlined the depth of relations between the two countries, noting that he spent a long part of his life and political struggle in Egypt, especially when he was young. He added that his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa were good and contribute to the promotion of relations in the different domains.

He voiced hope that genuine security and stability would be realized in Africa after the signing of the treaty today.

Sudan**Sudan: Opposition Leader Criticizes Accord With Rebels***NC1504161796 Cairo MENA in English
1536 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese Democratic National Grouping and head of Democratic Federal Party, described the agreement signed with two rebel leaders in the south as a play aiming at diverting the attention from the crises facing al-Turabi front and its isolation inside and outside.

In a statement today al-Mirghani said no agreement was so far reached which might lead to ending the civil war.

The only outlet for the crisis is Asmara agreement signed by all effective political factions, he said.

Al-Turabi regime is not after peace which they speak about and the coup of June 1989 was to strike peace efforts which was achieved through the peace agreement signed in November 1988.

Sudan: SSIM Leader Machar Defends Reasons for Signing Peace Deal*AB1304204196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although predicted, it was perhaps still hard to believe that Riak Machar, the leader of the South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM, and his ally, Carabino Kuany Bol, would turn up in Khartoum this week and sign a peace deal with the government of General 'Umar al-Bashir. After all, the man they once fought alongside, John Garang, is still there, waging an offensive against government forces in the southeast of Sudan. The deal included a cease-fire, some kind of referendum, and a charter promising a measure of autonomy. But all along, Riak Machar has on the face of it being a dedicated advocate of independence for southern Sudan. Our Khartoum correspondent, Alfred Taban, caught up with Riak Machar in a government guest house and asked him what on earth he was doing, signing deal with Khartoum:

[Begin recording] [Machar] I came to make peace.

[Taban] When in the bush, you were in the forefront in calling for the secession of southern Sudan. Have you dropped secession?

[Machar] The right of self-determination is what the SSIM stands for, and this is what we have agreed upon

in the charter which was signed in the Republican Palace in Khartoum. The people of the south are now granted the right to determine their political aspirations through a referendum. If they want to be a different country that it is their own, if they want to endorse the present system of federalism, this is also their decision. So, we stood for self-determination, which is determined by the people of southern Sudan, and that is still what we stand for.

[Taban] Some people to say what you did by returning home was to surrender to the government. Have you surrendered?

[Machar] I thought I told you we have signed a political agreement that will bring peace to southern Sudan, that satisfies the aspirations of people of southern Sudan. This is the reason of the war. If the reason of the war has been identified and solution is given, which satisfies the people of southern Sudan, what is the need of continuing the war?

[Taban] Many of your assistants abroad have been criticizing you, calling you a deceit and a person of multiple personality. Some of them have actually resigned. Are you now feeling sorry for having returned to Sudan?

[Machar] I have no reason to be sorry. I have no reason to regret coming to Khartoum, since I have achieved what the people of southern Sudan want. For those who resign, it's actually one who resigned from London. There are not many. It is one person. It is Dr. Wani Tombe, and it looks as if he has been misbriefed. He has not got the correct information. We have actually achieved a great victory for the people of southern Sudan and the Sudanese in general. So, I am surprised that some would resign for having succeeded where others have failed. As for Richard Mulah, he is not my assistant.

[Taban] Well, but he has also been criticizing you. So, do you say to him?

[Machar] I think he must have misunderstood the political charter. Let him go through the political charter. There is no betrayal of the cause of the south. In actual fact, the people of south have come out victorious in that political charter.

[Taban] It is reported that you had been offered a ministerial position in the government of Gen. al-Bashir. Is it true?

[Machar] I met Gen. Bashir. We did not discuss that; I am not interested in a ministerial position. Peace has to be realized first. My mission now is peace. Even if

I were offered a portfolio at this stage, I would decline to take it.

[Taban] How have the southerners you have met in Khartoum been receiving you? Have they not accused you of being a traitor?

[Machar] Not at all. There is no such an accusation. They are jubilant. They are even surprised. Some of them are.... [pause] They do not believe that a charter, which would grant them their rights, could be signed in Khartoum at the Republican Palace. [end recording]

Sudan: National Convention Honors Peace Accord Signers

EA1504123796 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice president of the Republic, police Major General George Kongor Arop, a number of ministers, as well as members of foreign diplomatic missions accredited in Khartoum, yesterday, attended a banquet organized by the secretary general of the national convention, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, to honor the leader of the South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM], Dr. Riak Machar; [Teny Dhurgon]; and the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], Mr. Kerubino Kuanyin Bol; to mark the signing of the political charter [for peace] by the government and both movements.

During his speech, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din said that Sudan was entering a new era in its history, in which it was transcending all obstacles in the period prior to signing the charter. In this respect, he commended the patriotic roles of Dr. Riak Machar and Mr. Kerubino Kuanyin in taking this courageous decision to sign the charter which had now paved the way for a comprehensive peace accord in the country.

For his part, the leader of the SPLM, Mr. Kerubino Kuanyin, reiterated the importance of the charter and gave an account of the circumstances under which the charter had been signed, referring to the developments that had taken place in the country, culminating in a system of an equitable sharing of wealth and the application of the federal system, which had been a demand by south Sudan. In this connection, he called on the rebel [John] Garang [de Mabior] to return to the country and join in the peace process.

In the same vein, the leader of the SSIM, Dr. Riak Machar, talked about past attempts to bring about peace in the country. In this regard, he said that responsibility would now require full adherence to the provisions of the political charter, commitment to bringing about

peace under federalism and rebuilding all that had been destroyed by war. He added that the charter had eliminated conflict and opened new horizons in Sudan's political history. He called on all other [rebel] factions to return to the country and end war in the south.

Sudan: Opposition Says Regime Planning Chemical Weapons Factory

EA1204223296 Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] our informed sources have disclosed that the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime has started purchasing components required for the construction of a chemical weapons factory in Khartoum Bahri. The NIF sent the former consul in the Sudanese

Embassy in Libya, Engineer Muhammad Uthman, currently a colonel in the security organ, to Paris under the cover of accompanying his wife, Ahlam 'Abd-al-Jalil, who has been appointed second secretary in the Sudanese embassy in Paris, but who cannot speak French.

Our sources added that Engineer Colonel Muhammad Uthman coordinates purchases of chemical industry equipment piecemeal from different countries to distract attention and thus avoid making the Iraqi mistake. The equipment is consigned on a weekly basis by the pilot of a Sudanair aircraft, accompanied by passengers. The sources do not exclude the possibility of this operation being undertaken in collaboration with countries which support the Khartoum regime.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Iranian Official Cites Tehran-European Talks on Lebanon Deal

LD1604122296 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Morteza Sarmadi, Iranian deputy foreign minister [for communications], has hailed Kuwaiti-Iranian relations and said that his current visit to Kuwait is aimed at bolstering these relations. These statements were made at a news conference held today. The deputy foreign minister added that consultations between Iran and the states in the region are extremely important for the security and stability of the Gulf region.

Regarding the three United Arab Emirates islands occupied by Iran, the Iranian deputy foreign minister expressed his country's readiness to solve the problems relating to these islands through dialogue and peaceful means. He also talked about the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and said that consultations are currently taking place between Iran and the European states, with a view to stopping the Israeli military operations in return for an end to the attacks with Katyusha rockets on northern Israel.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Lebanese Premier on Saudi Efforts To Halt Israeli Attack

LD1604211696 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Lebanese prime minister has stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his loyal crown prince has always helped and supported Lebanon.

In a statement to the media made today before leaving Jeddah at the end of his visit to the kingdom, he said that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, his loyal crown prince, and the second deputy prime minister, are in contact with officials in the countries concerned with achieving peace in the region to urge Israel to stop its military operations in Lebanon.

He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is trying to exploit its international standing and political weight to stop the Israeli attack on Lebanon.

He said that he has briefed His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-

'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, on the situation in Lebanon and on Israel's actions in destroying Lebanese economic installations, killing innocent people, driving citizens out of their homes, wrecking houses and homes, and damaging the Lebanese infrastructure.

The Lebanese prime minister said that Israel claims that it is fighting a particular political party, but those suffering are the Lebanese people and economy.

The Lebanese prime minister left Jeddah this afternoon after a visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Defense Minister, Lebanese Premier Discuss Situation

LD1604164596 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio
Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, this afternoon received in his office in Jeddah Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, talks focused on the developments of the situation in Lebanon and the possible ways of finding a solution to the painful situation prevailing in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Defense Chief, Lebanese Premier Interviewed on Situation

LD1604202796 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Interview with Saudi Arabian Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by unidentified correspondents in Jeddah on 16 April — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Highness, what were the main subjects you tackled during your talks with the Lebanese prime minister?

[Prince Sultan] The issue of the hour. Anyone who talks with the Lebanese prime minister now has to talk about the tragedies the Lebanese people have received from a state which does not respect humanity.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, have you started contacts to ascertain what is happening in Lebanon?

[Prince Sultan] Anyway, our contacts [words indistinct] is that Saudi Arabia is part of Lebanon and is affected by whatever happens to Lebanon. God willing, we will not spare any efforts, as the crown prince confirmed to his excellency the Lebanese prime minister, in order to carry out our good endeavors.

[Correspondent] Do you think what has happened in Lebanon will affect the peace process?

[Prince Sultan] Yes, if it persists, it will affect the peace process, but if it stops it probably will not, because peace is above everything.

[Correspondent] Do you hope that the United States will put pressure on Israel to stop its assault on Lebanon?

[Prince Sultan] Do you think I could say, on behalf of a superpower, what it intends to do? I cannot.

[Correspondent] Do you hope that it will?

[Prince Sultan] We hope the United States sides with justice.

[Correspondent] Your excellency, could you tell us about the talks?

[Al-Hariri] I explained to the crown prince and Prince Sultan the situation in Lebanon and what is happening there. I believe that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as usual, stands by Lebanon and carries out the contacts of which it is capable, given its weight internationally, in order to halt this tragedy which the Lebanese people are experiencing.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Saudi Arabia: Fahd Orders Emergency Aid for Lebanese People

LD1604234896 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Royal Court issued the following statement this evening:

Proceeding from the concern of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and desire to alleviate the suffering of the brothers in Lebanon due to the Israeli aggressions against their territories he has ordered the preparation of emergency aid materials including foodstuffs, medicine, blankets, tents, and, ambulances for the affected and fleeing brothers. These materials will be transported by several cargo planes tomorrow.

Saudi Arabia: Shareholders Protest Bank Practices

96P50070A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 96 p 9

[Article by Muhammad al-Bassam]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a dramatic fashion, Riyadh Bank shareholders succeeded in postponing the bank's first general assembly after they distributed a declaration at that meeting which incited many of the shareholders to leave. This was the first time in the history of Saudi

shareholder companies that such a declaration has been used to put pressure on a newly appointed board of directors. It was noted that members of the new board of directors were saddened by their inability to convene their first meeting and to gain the confidence of the shareholders.

Riyadh Bank announced officially that tomorrow, Sunday, 7 April, a new general assembly meeting is set for 18:00 hours at the al-Khuzama Center in Riyadh headed by 'Umran Muhammad al-'Umran, chairman of the board of directors of Riyadh Bank.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's special sources indicated that the shareholders will discuss issues of extreme sensitivity and importance, foremost among which is the "debt phenomenon" whose measurable numbers now amount to 5.6 billion Saudi riyals. The most important of these outstanding debts is the 2-billion-riyal loan to the former Soviet Union; thus, the shareholders are exerting pressure on the new board of directors to collect on this loan and its profits as soon as possible, especially since Russia inherited the former Soviet Union.

Likewise, the shareholders will discuss other debts linked to companies and establishments having ties to the members of the old and new administrative councils, ties that make it difficult for the council to collect on those loans. Therefore, the shareholders will propose to the administrative council a hiring policy at the bank, the absence of which has prevented until now the hiring of a managing director. Our special sources point out that this managing director will be either an American or a European in order to extricate the bank from its long-time alliances and free the hands of the director to undertake fundamental reforms in the bank. Similarly they will discuss thoroughly the present hiring policy which the shareholders find unacceptable because it fits in with the old ways of dispensing enormous sums of money with little productive return; also [they will discuss] modernization, as well as the filling of leadership positions and the large number of them.

The shareholders intend to discuss the significant drop in bank profits, compared to the profits of similar Saudi banks, such as al-Rajhi Bank and the Saudi-American bank, which realized large profits last year. This is noteworthy if we consider that Riyadh Bank is the largest in the region in terms of capital, deposits, and high financial holdings; yet, it shows the least profit.

This fact raises a major question for the shareholders and, since the new board of directors cannot satisfy them with excuses, tomorrow evening the rescheduled general assembly meeting, the shareholders will discuss the decrease in profits in the last quarter of 1995, when profits did not exceed 82 million riyals. Shareholders

will also discuss other matters of significance that must be handled by the new board of directors, such as the development and improvement of branches and their appropriate locations in place of the current branches.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT special sources indicate that the shareholders will discuss not renewing the contract of the present bank auditor because of his inability to expose 1995 budget irregularities and secrets and the liberties taken with banking easements; also for his inability to use his current financial report to expose the people who profited from this.

Saudi Arabia: Expatriate Paper—No Case for Claiming Libya Has Chemical Weapons

MM1204135196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 6 Apr 96 p 17

[Article by Bakr 'Uwaydah: "Libyan Chemicals? Why?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Libya does not need chemical weapons, but only Tripoli can substantiate this denial in order to disprove the U.S. allegations.

It seems that the concoction against Libya is almost ready in the kitchen of U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's remarks are very clear: "Washington does not rule out military action to prevent Libya producing chemical weapons." This was the substance of President Husni Mubarak's message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, conveyed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, only hours after the U.S. defense secretary left Egypt last Thursday [4 April].

This is a year for U.S. presidential elections, which are only some months away. The U.S. voter has been known to forget some of his domestic concerns if he sees his country's muscles being flexed abroad, especially if the muscle-flexing is aimed at chasing someone that Americans dislike, such as Col. al-Qadhafi, and if the chase takes place in a way that appeals to the U.S. voter's conceit and superiority complex and compels the world to watch in amazement a real version of the military scenes in the Tom Cruise movie Top Gun.

The Clinton administration cannot use the Lockerbie card to flex its muscles and carry out this chase, because, since the Lockerbie affair was referred to the Security Council, decisions about developments concerning it were taken out of Washington's and London's hands, which means that any new U.S.-British step which would use the Lockerbie affair as a background would need a new Security Council resolution. There is not one single instance or precedent to indicate that the Security Council would approve a military strike against Libya

simply because it refuses to hand over al-Miqrahi and Fahimah. Therefore, it is surprising but not unusual that Washington should startle the international community by suddenly talking so vehemently and ardently about Libya possessing chemical weapons. The tone is the tone of someone who has categorical proof and who is sure of his next steps, plans, and actions.

The Libyan leader's response to the Egyptian president's message will determine the next move. The operations room in the Pentagon could issue instructions to U.S. aircraft carriers to head toward the Libyan coast, which they would reach some hours later. Then the showdown would begin between U.S. gunboat diplomacy and the rhetoric of the Libyan people's committees, with Clinton's popularity soaring even before the first rocket is fired. The matter could end there — anyone who starts something has no problem finding a way to end it. However, matters could go beyond just a showdown between U.S. gunboat diplomacy and the rhetoric of the Libyan committees. It would then be necessary to start Top Gun so Clinton can achieve a better electoral success.

The truth is that, if it wants to, Tripoli can thwart this scenario, if it is just a scenario, and pour the concoction over the cook's head. This depends, of course, on Libya being really "innocent" of the U.S. "accusation" supported by "categorical evidence." Plain logic encourages the neutral observer to believe that Libya is really innocent, because why should it want to possess biological and chemical weapons? Why does it need them? To confront whom? There is no logical answer to any of these questions which would convince us that Libya is busy producing chemical weapons, while in fact it is a country that needs every dinar for development in all fields.

Logic would then make us assume that Minister 'Amr Musa has already conveyed a Libyan response to Washington via Cairo, to the effect that Tripoli is ready to welcome inspection committees from anywhere in the world, committees which would inspect the alleged site in Tarhunah and any other place in Libya. The inspection would prove the U.S. accusation to be false, invalidate the excuse of the military strike, and neutralize its impact from the start. That is, of course, if logic governs the decisions of the U.S. or the Libyan side. Sometimes, the observer tries to analyze and understand the logic of an event, before and after it has happened, while those concerned by the event itself are busy doing other things.... Logic and the peoples' interests and safety are the least of their worries.

Saudi Arabia: 'African Belt' Pilgrims Barred for Health Reasons*LD1404211696 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An official source has told SPA that the WHO has provided information about an outbreak of meningitis in many countries in the African belt at the beginning of this year, 1996. A large number of cases and deaths have been recorded, the highest being in Nigeria with 41,401 cases and 6,581 deaths. Some 22,235 cases and 2,018 deaths have been recorded in Burkina Faso; 7,800 cases and 800 deaths in Mali; and smaller numbers in the remaining countries of the [African] belt. This is according to the latest WHO report.

He said that because of the commitment of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sau'd, to protect pilgrims to God's holy house, and in view of the existence of a large proportion of carriers of the Meningitis germ, regardless of previous inoculation, it has been decided not to allow in pilgrims coming from the countries of the African belt, such as Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali. This applies to the citizens and residents of these countries. Citizens of these countries who are resident outside the African belt region will be allowed to come to the kingdom to perform pilgrimage this year. [passage omitted]

The source concluded his statement by saying that while announcing that, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia prayed to God to protect all pilgrims to God's holy house from any harm.

Yemen**Yemen: President Salih Phones Syrian President on Lebanese Events***JN1604195696 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, today held a phone conversation with his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic.

The two presidents reviewed developments of interest to the Arab nation, foremost of which is the continued Israeli aggression on fraternal Lebanon. The brother president reiterated that our country's leadership, government, and people stand by the brothers in Lebanon and Syria in the face of Israel's arrogance and brutal aggression, which the Israeli authorities are using as a

bloody electoral campaign at the expense of the Arab people in fraternal Lebanon.

He also said: The hearts and potentials of the Yemenis will be used to support our brothers to win their legitimate rights, asserting that our country backs just, comprehensive, and equitable peace that will ensure the restoration of Arab rights.

Yemen: Official Departs for Cairo Meetings on Lebanon Developments*JN1604173496 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Leading a Yemeni delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister brother 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman left for Cairo today to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, which will be held in the Egyptian capital tomorrow, Wednesday.

He told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', that the meeting will be devoted to discussing the brutal Israeli aggression on Lebanon and taking a unanimous Arab position in order to support the Lebanese Government and people and preserve Lebanon's sovereignty and steadfastness in the face of the aggression.

Yemen: Foreign Minister Sets Conditions for Summit With Eritrea*MM1604123396 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Apr 96 pp 12, 13*

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ashri: "'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani Tells AL-MAJALLAH: Our Condition for Meeting With Eritreans Is Their Agreement to Our Demands"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has affirmed that his country would prefer the dispute with Eritrea over the Hanish islands to be resolved peacefully without any escalation or tension, provided that the Eritrean authorities display a degree of positiveness and rationality in dealing with the Yemeni demands concerning the restoration of Yemeni sovereignty over Hanish and the measures concerning the protection of Yemeni borders and Yemeni national security.

The Yemeni foreign minister told AL-MAJALLAH during his recent visit to Egypt with President 'Abdallah Salih: We would agree immediately to a summit meeting between Presidents Salih and Afwerki in Cairo or any other agreed venue to resolve the crisis over Hanish, provided that Eritrea agrees to all our demands concerning this dispute and that such a meeting be preceded by a high-level meeting to discuss all arrangements and sign an agreement in principle on the two sides' acceptance

of the possibility of referring the issue to the International Court of Justice to seek its verdict on Yemen's claim to the Hanish islands.

He added: If the Eritrean Government does not respond to the Yemeni demands all the mediation efforts by parties such as Egypt, Ethiopia, and France would be a waste, for all our respect for all these efforts, especially as positive initiatives and ideas have been submitted by Egypt and France in this connection. And during President Salih's recent talks with President Husni Mubarak in Egypt we agreed to the French initiative and

the possibility of implementing all the points contained in it, but we were surprised by the Eritrean reservations about some points. And here we are still waiting for the results of the contacts and mediation efforts being made by Egypt and France in order to complete the efforts.

The Yemeni minister announced that his country will not under any circumstances allow any Israeli military presence in the islands region in the Red Sea or any Eritrean-Israeli cooperation, as Yemen is currently lying in wait for any kind of cooperation.

Iraq: Third Round of Oil-for-Food Talks Begins

JN1604161796 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1558 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 16 Apr (INA)—A short while ago, delegations from Iraq and the United Nations started a new session of the third round of the dialogue over the issue of oil in exchange for food, medicine, and the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

Iraq: UN Oil-for-Food Talks Session Held 16 Apr

JN1604193596 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Delegations from Iraq and the United Nations on Tuesday evening [16 April] started a new session of the third round of the dialogue over the issue of oil in exchange for food, medicine, and the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York said the session lasted for almost two hours. The two teams agreed to hold another session at a later time tonight, Baghdad time.

The two delegations held a session yesterday, in which the Iraqi delegation was headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and the UN delegation was headed by Hans Corell, the legal adviser to the UN secretary general.

Yesterday's and today's sessions fall within the framework of the dialogue between the two parties over the said issue.

Iraq: UN Oil-for-Food Talks Session To Be Held 17 Apr

JN1704120396 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1050 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 17 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi and UN delegations will this evening, Baghdad time, hold a new session of talks within the framework of dialogue over the issue of oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs. The two delegations held two sessions of talks yesterday, Tuesday.

The third round of talks began on 8 April. Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari heads Iraq's delegation, and Hans Corell, legal adviser to the UN secretary general, heads the UN delegation.

Iraq: OPEC Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN1604163096 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Amar Mekhloufi, Algerian minister of energy and mines and

president of OPEC Ministerial Council, and Rilwanu Lukman, OPEC secretary general, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq.

Iraq: OPEC Official 'Confident' About Country's Return to Market

JN1604195996 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amar Mekhloufi, Algerian minister of energy and mines and president of OPEC Ministerial Council, and Rilwanu Lukman, OPEC secretary general, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Mekhloufi said Iraq's return to the oil market is certain in view of the importance of Iraq and its weight in the international oil market. Iraq, he said, is an effective member of the organization and occupies a prominent position in it.

He said OPEC member states welcome Iraq's return to the oil market and accept the organizations's resolutions in this regard.

Amar Mekhloufi said he is confident that his visit to Baghdad will be fruitful. He noted that the visit was made at the request of the OPEC Ministerial Council which met in Vienna in October 1995 in order to give a picture of the organizations's conditions to the heads of OPEC member states and OPEC officials.

Iraq: France To Establish Trade Bureau in Baghdad

LD1704092196 Paris Radio France International
in French 0800 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On to French presence in the Persian Gulf. A permanent French trade bureau is going to be set up in Baghdad to bolster economic and industrial cooperation between Iraq and France.

The former French Chief of Staff, Jeannou Lacaze, has been visiting Baghdad for three days now. He is heading a delegation of French businessmen.

Iraq: French Industrial, Commercial Office Opens in Baghdad

JN1604174796 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1345 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Jeannou Lacaze, former head of the French Joint Chiefs of Staff and president of the Iraqi-French industrial and

commercial society, announced the opening in Baghdad of a permanent office for the French-Iraqi Trade and Industry Council.

In a statement to INA today, Lacaze said this office will help strengthen economic and industrial cooperation between Iraq and France.

For his part, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih said the opening of the office is an important and positive step that would help develop relations between the two countries and strengthen economic and commercial cooperation between Iraq and France.

In a statement to INA, the trade minister said the French companies recently demonstrated a clear and important activity, which reflects a French desire to develop economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Iraq: Syrian Vice President Expects 'Bloody War' in Iraq

JN1604142496 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stressed that there are several indications that Iraq will witness serious events in the next two months.

In exclusive statements to an Iranian delegation that visited Syria recently — which were published by a paper in the Islamic capital, Tehran — the Syrian official said these events will start with battles between Iraqi Army units and some Iraqi tribes, which, until recently, had great influence inside the ruling regime.

The Syrian vice president added that the battles will then develop into a bloody war inside Iraq. This, he said, will force Jordan and Turkey to intervene militarily under the pretext of ending the fighting and avoiding bloodshed.

Diplomatic sources in the region expect the United States to try in the next few days to prepare the necessary regional climate for such impending developments in Iraq. These diplomats do not rule out the possibility that Washington would extend direct political and military aid to Amman and Ankara to support their intervention. The sources noted that the presence of 34 U.S. warplanes in Jordan may be part of this trend.

Iraq: Hammudi Refutes Kuwaiti 'Allegations' on Prisoners

JN1704084396 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2107 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Istanbul, 16 Apr (INA) — (Iraqi) National Assembly Member Sa'd Qasim Ham-

mudi refuted the allegations of the so-called Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the so-called Kuwaiti National Assembly, that there are Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

In a speech he gave at the Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings in Istanbul today, Hammudi said that these claims are absolutely baseless, asserting that there are no Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He said that repeating these lies is prompted by political motives to perpetuate the unjust embargo with the aim of exterminating 20 million Iraqis through hunger and diseases.

Hammudi recalled the lies made by the information minister of the Kuwaiti regime, who urged his daughter to cry before the U.S. Congress in preparation for waging aggression against Iraq. He wondered: Where are the ethics of which the Kuwaiti regime boasts?

Iraq: Regime Reportedly Planning To Expel Shiites From Baghdad

JN1504192996 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] By order of the tyrannical regime's presidential office, the Ministry of Planning is preparing a racist and parochial program aimed at reducing the percentage of Shiite and Kurdish inhabitants in Baghdad.

Our special sources say the new program follows the failure of the decision to prevent Shiites from owning real estate in Baghdad if they are not registered in the 1957 census. This decision forced hundreds of families to leave Baghdad.

The sources say that following the Sha'ban uprising [1991 Shia revolt], the parochial regime tried to encourage some tribes and families from the desert around Mosul and Tikrit to settle in Baghdad after they were recruited into the tyrant's special forces and units.

The Baghdad land registration department demands that citizens who want to own real estate in the capital must bring written approval from the tyrant's security department ensuring the citizen's allegiance to the regime.

A similar campaign is being launched in Karkuk that has so far resulted in hundreds of families of Turkmen and Kurdish origin being expelled.

Iraq: Assembly Member Addresses IPU Meeting on Minorities Issue

JN1704104396 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Istanbul, 16 Apr (INA)—Iraqi National Assembly member Sirwan al-Jaf said that

the glorious 17-30 July Revolution marked the dawn of solving the Kurdish issue.

In a speech on behalf of the Iraqi National Assembly delivered at the meetings of the committee on discussing the rights of minorities in world states, which are held on the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] meetings, he said: Many foreign sides used the Kurds as a political card to pressure Iraq and jeopardize its unity and security.

He added: This issue has continued to be unresolved until the inception of the 17-30 July Revolution when President Saddam Husayn displayed political courage by signing the 11 March 1970 Statement which guaranteed a peaceful, democratic, and humanitarian solution to the Kurdish issue. [passage omitted]

Sirwan al-Jaf said: Chaos, problems, and conflicts spread in the Autonomous Region since 1991 as a result of foreign interference and the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. As a result of the agent cliques' tyranny, the region is now living in darkness after they sabotaged it and imposed their control on its citizens' destinies.

He said: In light of this situation, the Iraqi Government began dialogue with the armed groups in April 1991. This dialogue lasted until August of the same year. An agreement was reached with Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani to develop the Iraqi Kurds' Autonomous Law, which is the objective of President Saddam Husayn himself.

He added: A political statement was prepared. It was scheduled to be signed and announced on 14 April 1991. However, the U.S. Administration prevented Jalal Talabani from signing the agreement, something which created an abnormal and an unconstitutional situation. The United States, which supports the rebellion and acts of sabotage, is responsible for this situation.

Sirwan al-Jaf stressed: The minorities issue have always been used as a card to pressure the Third World Countries to achieve colonialist interests and objectives.

He called for confronting the inhuman means and methods, stopping foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and leaving the Iraqi people alone to determine their national options freely. He also called for lifting the unjust economic blockade which has been clamped on the Iraqi people for more than five years.

Sirwan al-Jaf pointed out that following the escalation of fighting and struggle over power in the Autonomous Region, specifically on 16 January 1996, the Council of Minister called on the parties concerned to go back

to the peaceful and national solution to close doors to foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Iraq: Article Addresses Economic Situation, Policy
96LH0157A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 21 Feb 96
pp 14-15

[Article by Rafi' al-Fallaji: "In Light of Positive Developments, How Can We Understand, Develop Our National Economy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After Iraqi efforts were crowned by glorious victory on 8 August 1988, and after peace came to Iraq following a long eight-year war, there was a dire need to shape economic policies to achieve two inseparable objectives. The first was paying off the costs that the economy had borne during the war, and the second was to put the economy on a course of increased growth. Therefore, everyone must understand that the weight endured by the state during conditions of a difficult war could not continue to be borne in the same measure in the circumstances that followed that war. What did the state do, and what were the circumstances during that period?

The Iraqi leadership has tried to pull the national economy out of the circle of problems and difficulties that it faced during the period of Iranian aggression, and has worked to deal with the deterioration that affected the economy before and during the war. Our leaders moved to face up to the different challenges. They formulated the plans and programs required to overcome those challenges, that would lead to: "First, stopping governmental expenditures from surpassing the volume of resources and, second, creating a balance that would be a new starting point toward making revenue a weightier index than imports."

The fact is that this plan was not born at the end of the war. On the contrary, major practical steps had already been taken to prepare firm ground for a correct jumping-off place. In March 1987 (about one and one-half years before the end of the war) President Saddam Husayn declared the start of an administrative and economic revolution aimed at streamlining state agencies, achieving optimum investment for human resources and economic operation of factories and industries, ending waste in the various sectors, and expediting implementation of projects. This meant totally reexamining the reality of operation and methods of work and production. This major revolution has, without a doubt, given new dimensions to the economic situation in its various aspects, within a framework of increased reliance on local resources and on finding alternatives to imports. Authority was given to economic institutions to shape this direction in a broad and influential manner that

would open doors to initiative in developing production and marketing processes. Export activities were also included. The objectives were summarized in a campaign of activities, most importantly:

- Increasing commodity production, which allows for the possibility of not having to import similar commodities which, consequently, reduces the burden of foreign expenditures.

%Increasing individual productivity and improving the quality of products.

%Reducing imported labor.

%Relying on modern methods of planning, production, and distribution.

%Nationalizing technology, giving Iraq the ability to overcome the many difficulties that block its scientific development and, consequently, the growth of its economy.

%Giving the private sector room to move more freely on the economic scene.

The administrative and economic revolution was widespread and profound in its objectives and methods. Therefore, it was assumed that interaction with it would be equivalent to its weight, especially with regard to the private sector.

The question here is: Has the private sector's role been commensurate in size with what was intended?

At the outset, one must point out that any change in economic policy is aimed at creating better growth opportunities, toward which we must move in all aspects, in a spirit of cooperation and with a single determination to complement each other. Lagging behind in any one part could lead to confusion, stumbling, and protracted delays in reaching our goals. Because the aspects of our national economy were under the direction, supervision, and management of the Socialist sector, the shift from it toward the private sector was a major operation that the private sector was unable to absorb. The reasons for this could pertain to its being a new operation, with which the private sector was not accustomed, nor was the Iraqi economy. Another reason might be a lack of understanding on the part of the workers in the private sector as to just what was required of them in terms of service to the national economy. Perhaps it was just this sector's basic inability to carry this major role.

In order to complete this picture, one must explain its remaining facets. In order for state controls to be effective in limiting the private sector's ability to bring pressure to bear on the citizen, local production must be increased. This creates the opportunity for competition.

With the presence of expanded supply, and the attempt to lessen the volume of demand, there will certainly be the opportunity to reduce prices and, consequently, block the way for the private sector to force an increase in the prices of its products. However, the fact was that the volume of demand constantly surpassed the size of the supply, which led to monopoly and rising prices. Why was the demand so high?

The process of balance with regard to governmental expenditures, under the aegis of a plan directed at growth, development, and compensation for the events of the Iranian aggression, was a very difficult matter for the state agencies. The state's objective (with regard to the leadership's noble directives and goals for growth in Iraq) was to proceed with a reconstruction project to restore wealth to Iraq and its people. This plan certainly required vast expenditures. At this point, it is sufficient to say that the 1990 Investment Plan included implementation of 1,023 projects, with financing for 187 agricultural projects, 247 industrial projects, 200 transportation and communications projects, 286 building and services projects, and 103 education, training, and scientific research projects. Allocations for the 1990 Import Plan totaled 2.706 billion Iraqi dinars [D], along with state allocations of D.5 billion to subsidize commodities and food. At the same time, the state was paying about \$3 billion a year for foreign debts, created by the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Along with these vast governmental expenditures, private expenditures also grew, increasing the volume of demand. Private expenditures cannot become active without the stimulus of governmental expenditures, along with the continuation of supply's inability to [satisfy] the volume of demand. Prices were freed (because of the private sector's trend) from their logical limits. However, the state rapidly intervened to protect the consumer in several ways, including price fixing.

In light of these circumstances, there were foreign political and economic changes that interacted and imposed their consequences, which certainly affected the domestic scene. These changes included:

- Escalation of American-Zionist aggression against Iraq, whose political and economic directions were counter to what the imperialist powers wanted.

%Emergence of a plot to wreak damage on Iraq and its national economy. The major imperialist powers sought to have their client powers in the region do harm to Iraq, especially as pertains to oil. World markets were glutted with very large amounts of oil, which resulted in a very big drop in oil prices. This caused Iraq to suffer large losses and reduced its volume of oil revenues.

%Practical (public) steps were taken to blockade Iraq before the iniquitous blockade was declared in the form of the Security Council's resolution on 6 August 1990.

Iraq has an economy that was open to foreign imports, and the imposition of this iniquitous blockade upon it and the prevention of even food and medicine from reaching its people, in addition to the occurrence of the 30-nation attack, wreaked havoc and devastation on all aspects of Iraqi life, especially the economic facets. All of this created opportunities for the emergence of greed as a factor in the supply of goods, services, and the requirements of production, as part of the vile, injurious imperialist plot. This has encumbered the national economy with major problems, in view of the lack of sources for hard currency, because of the iniquitous blockade and the halt to the exporting of Iraqi goods, with oil as the most important. In addition, the enemies have frozen Iraqi assets abroad and, thereby, have denied any opportunity for Iraqis to obtain hard currency, which could at least be used to purchase food and medical supplies.

In the face of difficult circumstances like these, the state thought earnestly about shaping its fiscal, monetary, and development policies so as to end the drop in value of Iraqi currency (the dinar). It is economically obvious that helping this currency could be done as follows:

- Expanding production by increasing the total rate of industrial and agricultural growth. (This part

clashes with the force of the iniquitous blockade. In order for industrial and agricultural production to increase, the raw materials, equipment, and requirements for industrial production must be available. As for agricultural production, fertilizers, seed, insecticides, and agricultural equipment must be supplied. However, the state has been denied the means to provide all this in the volume required.)

%Encouraging exports of various national goods and products. (This aspect has also been blocked by the reality of the blockade.)

These two goals cannot be achieved. In addition, our enemies have not been content with military actions and the iniquitous blockade, but have also tried to weaken the citizens' confidence in the Iraqi currency, by means of issuing counterfeit banknotes and pumping them under cover of darkness into Iraq. Since Iraqi banknotes printed in Britain are being prevented from reaching the Iraqi market, the state has found it necessary to take on the printing of quantities of Iraqi notes at home. This was required to provide cash liquidity to keep up with the rapidity of cash circulation, whose rates have risen considerably because of the state's initiatives in reconstruction and the vast expenditures required for that phase.

Israel: IDF Officer Spells Out Conditions for Agreement on Lebanon

TA1604134296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1300 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Giora 'Inbar, chief of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] liaison unit with Lebanon, said that no distinction should be made between attacks on the security zone and attacks on the Galilee — a distinction which was included in the understandings following Operation Accountability — in the agreement concluding Operation Grapes of Wrath. According to Brig. Gen. 'Inbar, any agreement restricting the response the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] to Hizballah's actions might very soon lead to the situation that recently existed in south Lebanon.

[Begin 'Inbar recording] The presence of the IDF, the SLA, and the civilian population calls for the same understandings, agreements, or freedom of action for the military force here as south of the border. I am convinced that the political level — the prime minister and all his assistants — understand this just as I do, and the guidelines for this operation were issued accordingly. [end recording]

Brig. Gen. 'Inbar added that in view of the serious warnings about possible suicide bombings by Hizballah, the SLA has put up roadblocks and observation posts in the security zone, has been searching deserted villages and old cars, and has been checking suspicious persons in the area.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 16 April cites Gen. 'Inbar as saying: "We will not allow a situation in which the prime minister suddenly stops the IDF short of completing the operation. At the same time, he said the orders the IDF has received show that the political echelons are aware of this."]

Israel: Savir—Lebanon Pullout Per UN Resolution in Peace Agreement

TA1604155296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a briefing to U.S. journalists this morning, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said Israel would agree to a withdrawal from Lebanon based on UN Security Council Resolution 425 in the context of a peace agreement. Savir led the journalists to believe that the contacts to halt the fighting in Lebanon would also lead to the future resumption of negotiations with Syria.

Israel: Defense Committee Official Says Operation to Last 'Weeks'

TA1604162296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hagay Merom, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said this evening that he believes that the fighting in Lebanon is not near the end and anyone saying that is not being truthful.

[Begin Merom recording] It will take a long time. It is not a one-day operation. We cannot uproot them in a short operation. This is what we are doing. By saying a long time, I mean not an end in a few days, but several weeks. [end recording]

Israel: IDF Officers Summarize Lebanon Operations 16 Apr

TA1604171396 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1604 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Daily briefing by IDF Major General Matan Vilna'i, deputy chief of staff, and Brigadier General Dan Halutz, Air Force chief of staff at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv—live; broadcast in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Vilna'i] It is absolutely clear that the continued disruption of normal life in northern Israel will elicit Israeli operations deep in Lebanese territory, including al-Biq'a', Ba'labakk and the area north of it, and Beirut in response to and in retribution for the disruption of life in northern Israel.

We are in the sixth day of the operation, but as far as we are concerned, it is far from being the end. We are ready to go on for many days, and we have no doubt that the total number of days will ultimately determine the achievements we will attain.

You must bear in mind that Hizballah's actions are the main factor directly responsible for the suffering of the population in south Lebanon, who are compelled to leave their homes and get away from fighting areas, and in some cases they are also hurt. This is the gist of what I have to say today, which is not essentially different from what we said yesterday. Now we will hear a short review by the Air Force chief of staff.

[Halutz] Good evening. The Air Force's activities today, just like in previous days, began in the early hours of the morning with a raid on 'Ayn al-Hilwa near Sidon, during which the house of a Hizballah activist was hit. Afterward, just like in previous days, we continued with our so-called routine activities. These included raiding houses of terrorists, detecting terrorists, their vehicles, and squads of katyusha operators.

In addition, we operated in Beirut and al-Biqā', as you can see on the map. The objective of these two raids was to hit Hizballah headquarters. Yesterday we raided the power station in Beirut, and soon we will show you a clip where you will see how the raid looked from the plane. You will also see a compilation of various raids we conducted today. Our policy is to try to be as accurate as possible when hitting the targets assigned to us so as to minimize the effect on innocent people. I believe the pictures you will see will speak for themselves.

At the beginning of the film you will see the targets raided yesterday, the power station I mentioned and a Hizballah headquarters in Beirut. We did not have time to prepare a clip of the raids we conducted today.

As you can see in the films, we try to take pictures of the target before, during, and after the raid which eventually show that we try and succeed to accurately hit the targets assigned to us.

To sum up the Air Force's activity so far, I can say that since the beginning of the operation we have carried out approximately 1,000 sorties by fighter jets and helicopter gunships, and several hundred sorties by auxiliary planes that assist the raiding planes throughout the area. Thank you.

[Question indistinct]

[Vilna'i] I never said that; my explanation must have been wrong. Katyushas are being fired at the entire region, from the west — the Western Galilee and Nahariyya — to the eastern sector.

[IDF Radio's Avi Lifshitz] Gen. Vilna'i, reports from Lebanon say that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is using delay-fuse bombs, bombs that explode several seconds after hitting the target. Can you confirm this?

[Vilna'i] The answer is negative. We are not using delay-fuse bombs. Our bombs explode on impact. We do not know of anything of this sort, unless something was mechanically wrong with the bomb, which sometimes happens.

[Unidentified correspondent] Which of the clips we saw were taken from jets and which were from gunships? Also, did we detect any reactions from the Syrian or Lebanese Armies today, the sixth day of fighting?

[Halutz] Most of the attacks we saw were carried out by fighter jets. We saw two attacks by helicopters: One in Beirut, where we used helicopters because the target was located in an inhabited area. Helicopters carry less ammunition which is less destructive. The other attack by a helicopter was on another house, as we saw.

As for the second part of your question, during our attack in Beirut today there was antiaircraft fire on our helicopters. The helicopters returned fire and hit one of the guns firing at them. This is in line with our policy under which we fire back at anyone who shoots at us.

[Lifshitz] Would it be reasonable to assume that the gun was operated by Lebanese Army soldiers?

[Halutz] Yes, because it was in Beirut.

[Lifshitz] One of the clips looks like it was filmed from very low, almost from the ground, showing one of the targets on fire. Was that attack different from the others?

[Halutz] No, it was simply a camera zooming in.

[Qol Yisra'el's Karmela Menashe] [words indistinct] Do you attribute this slowdown in katyusha attacks to your activity, and how do you explain the fact that the firing of katyushas resumed this afternoon?

[Vilna'i] Katyusha firing did not resume this afternoon but at 0800 GMT this morning. Over the past several days, they started shooting as soon as it was light. The first katyusha yesterday was fired at 0243 GMT, and today it was much later. I am not certain I can say what their considerations are. I can, however make several conjectures. First, they mean to shoot a lot and would like to shoot more than they actually do. Undoubtedly, the main reason they do not fire more often and more precisely, as they did in the past, is our activity — in the air and on the ground, meaning artillery fire from the ground, not a ground operations. I cannot say why they did not start at first light this morning, and I would not want to guess. I can point to areas from which they fire in a hurry and from a farther distance which, as a result, they are less accurate, naturally. It is true that, in the end, the numbers speak for themselves: We can see that each day they fire more katyushas than on the previous day, but their fire is less effective and we, I am happy to say, have had almost no casualties. A few people were lightly injured or suffered from shock. Clearly, one lethal katyusha could change the entire picture.

[Menashe] You said that you are willing to go on with the operation for days on end, and it does not seem that the katyusha fire is about to let up. Can it go on for another week or two? What should the residents of the north brace themselves for?

[Vilna'i] How can we tell when katyusha fire will let up? What do you mean that they do not seem to be shooting less?

[Menashe] Does it seem like Hizballah is cracking down?

[Vilna'i] We do not expect to detect signs that Hizballah is breaking down. We wish to permanently reduce their ability to fire katyushas and make them pay an increasingly higher price. We are in the business of gathering mass which, presently, it seem like we are far from. I cannot guarantee that anyone present here can tell what the other side plans and feels. We, the army at least, do not pretend to know. This is why we stress: This operation will take time, it will be long. In it we use various means — and I will soon comment on this — far from the IDF's full strength.

This is only the beginning as far as the means we have employed so far are concerned, and we can do much more. If we do, it would be an escalation. If the other side escalates the situation, we will unveil additional means which, I believe, the public is aware of — this is no secret. You viewed the Air Force tapes and saw what I believe is the main thing: The complexity of our ability to strike at such targets. A question can be asked: How can the pilot know which roof is the one he should target in this quarter? I am not even asking how he manages to hit it, but how does he know up front where he should aim his sights? I want to call your attention to the fact that despite the large number of sorties Gen. Halutz told you about, there were very few incidents in which we hit things we did not intend to hit. So, this is a complicated thing which will take time. I suggest that we brace ourselves and realize that when it rains, the enemy is getting wet as well, not just us. Thank you.

Israel: Draft of U.S.-Brokered Understandings on Lebanon Reported

TA1604180996 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report followed by live talk in the studio between Rosen and anchorwoman Micky Haimovich]

[FBIS Translated Text] We will open our newscast with a report about intensive negotiations to reach a cease-fire in Lebanon. The draft of the understandings, relayed by the United States to Syria, consists of seven clauses, the main one being Israel's demand that Syria oversee Hizballah and vouch that it will not fire katyushas at Israeli territory, while for its part Israel will cease fire in Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen obtained a copy of the draft:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] The open political negotiations were held today by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabarti. However, the real drama took place behind the scenes in urgent phone calls between Israel and the

United States. At 0900 Washington time and 1600 Israel time, Dennis Ross called Ehud Baraq with a draft of the proposed understandings, which consist of seven clauses. The main ones are: Hizballah will abstain from firing at Israel's northern settlements; Israel will not hit civilian villages north of the security zone; Hizballah will not be allowed to operate inside civilian villages north of the security zone; a special international apparatus will oversee and guarantee the implementation of the understandings. The condition set by Israel is that it retains the right to hit any Hizballah target in Lebanon, if Hizballah operates against Israel's northern settlements.

[Baraq] We want something that will ultimately work. The fact is that the understandings of Operation Accountability worked for over two years, which is roughly the time left between today and Israel's 50th anniversary. If the arrangement we reach as a result of Operation Grapes of Wrath brings peace to the Galilee and allows a reasonable modus operandi for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] until after Israel's 50th Independence Day, I would consider it a very important achievement.

[Rosen] Those who thought the U.S. President's trip to the Far East would hold up the political contacts were proved wrong. Speaking in Korea, President Clinton said: We are making every possible effort to stop the shooting. Secretary Christopher phoned Faruq al-Shar' and Shim'on Peres, and Jerusalem officials are waiting to hear this evening whether Damascus is prepared to accept a political deal that would tie Hizballah's hands. [end recording]

[Haimovich] 'Imanu'el, what do we actually expect from the Syrians?

[Rosen] First of all, as noted in my report, the Syrians must vouch for the implementation of these understandings. It is clear to everyone that they are the main force in Lebanon, even if the agreement says that the Lebanese will vouch for it. In addition, contacts are under way to attain something broader, but it is not yet clear whether they will succeed. This agreement may be of a more political nature, and as part of it Israel would reiterate its commitment to withdraw from the security zone within nine months. Contacts are under way on this point, and it is hard to tell whether they will succeed.

[Haimovich] Let us go back to the draft. What is the difference between these understandings and the ones attained after Operation Accountability?

[Rosen] I would say that the main difference is the fact that these understandings will be iron-clad. In other words, they will be formulated and guaranteed in such a way that it will be impossible to have

different interpretations, as was the case with the 1993 understandings of Operation Accountability. Other differences are the ban on operating out of civilian villages and the total ban on firing at our northern settlements.

[Haimovich] Could you assess what stage these deliberations are at? How long will they take?

[Rosen] The current stage consists of exchanging the initial drafts and remarks. The Syrians have already started bargaining over some of the clauses in the draft. They have not yet responded to all the points, definitely not to the main one, such as their willingness to oversee and vouch for the implementation of the agreement. Dennis Ross may have to come to the region in the next few days. In any event, if the negotiations succeed an agreement may be concluded by the beginning of next week.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 16 April carries a report by political correspondent Nisim Mish'al, who quotes political sources in Jerusalem as saying that "if the Syrians respond favorably to the proposed U.S. draft, Operation Grapes of Wrath will end at once." The anchorman notes that "Minister Yosi Beilin will fly to the United States tonight. He will meet tomorrow with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and will proceed to Washington to promote the political moves concerning the situation in Lebanon."]

Israel: Country Reacts to U.S. Proposal for Written Document

TA1704113096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has informed the United States that the problem of Hizballah activity against Israel must be resolved within the framework of political negotiations between Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

Our correspondent reports that the U.S. draft proposal on halting the fighting that was submitted to Lebanon, Syria, and Israel includes the oral understandings reached following Operation Accountability in 1993, with the addition of another two clauses. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports.

[Begin Segal recording] Israel is interested in attaining written understandings that will end the fighting in the north. The United States is continuing to initiate contacts with this aim in mind. The United States has sent an initial draft of an agreement to Beirut, Damascus, and Jerusalem. This draft constitutes an attempt to put in writing the understandings reached following

Operation Accountability in 1993, with the addition of two important provisions. The first of these two added clauses permits the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to retaliate against all sources of Hizballah fire, even if they originate from inside south Lebanese villages, while the second clause calls for action by an influential factor — either Syria or Lebanon, but probably the latter — to prevent Hizballah from deploying inside the villages in order to carry out terrorist attacks against the IDF and Israel. Officials in Jerusalem are demanding that Israel retain the right to retaliate, if Lebanon and Syria fail to preclude such preparations on the part of Hizballah. The message was conveyed via the Americans to the Syrians and the Lebanese. The United States is now waiting for the latter's response. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is of the opinion that the Hizballah problem can be dealt with only in the framework of negotiations between Syria and Israel. The United States views this as a first step toward the resumption of talks between Syria and Israel. The prevailing view is that only tomorrow will it be possible to conduct an initial assessment of those issues that are jointly agreed upon by all the parties — this, in a bid to find a bridging proposal. [passage omitted]

Another two political developments should be mentioned: First, the head of Morocco's security services conducted a lightning visit to Israel yesterday in order to deliver a request from the Moroccan king to Shim'on Peres to do something about the situation in Lebanon. Second, the intensive diplomatic efforts made by the French foreign minister, who said today that there was no reason to fear two separate initiatives by France and the United States, since Paris and Washington were fully coordinated. [end recording]

Israel: Rabinovich on Efforts Toward New Understandings With Syria

TA1704073996 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to Washington, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Qovetz in the Tel Aviv studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Professor Rabinovich, ambassador to Washington and member of the negotiating team with Syria, I believe that this time the main address for Israel, although indirectly, is Lebanon, not Syria. Do we think that the Lebanese Government can deliver the goods and prevent Hizballah from operating against us in the future?

[Rabinovich] I think that the effective address is still Syria. I do not think we have any illusions about that.

but Syria — and this is part of the complex political situation in Lebanon — refuses to take formal responsibility. It enjoys influence without formal responsibility, and it is not interested in changing that situation. It insists that Lebanon is the relevant address, but in practice we, the Americans, and anybody else knowledgeable about the situation in Lebanon know that the effective address is Syria.

[Qovetz] Yesterday, the Lebanese Government also said that it cannot be responsible for the cease-fire, and that it is incapable of controlling Hizballah. If that is the case, with whom are we negotiating?

[Rabinovich] The answer, nevertheless, is Syria. I want to say something about the Lebanese Government, because here in the United States we are busy doing a double job: We are in contact with the U.S. Administration to work out effective contacts with Syria, but we are also waging an important information campaign. It is important for us to refute the Lebanese claim that on one hand it is a sovereign state with a representation at the United Nations and an embassy here, but on the other hand, when put to the test, it claims that it does not have the power to do anything. That double game cannot continue and that is what we are highlighting.

[Friedman] Do you describe the political aim, as defined by the Israeli Government, as drafting new understandings via Lebanon with Syria and Hizballah to create a new status quo in the north?

[Rabinovich] No, I would define it as negotiations with Syria so that it will aid the Lebanese Government to impose on Hizballah an effective cease-fire or prevent katyusha shelling or any other form of aggression toward us.

[Friedman] A written agreement or understandings?

[Rabinovich] An agreement in the sense of a signed text will not be achieved in the current situation. Firm understandings can definitely be arranged if the sides agree to abide by them. The fact is that the understandings signed in summer 1993 were upheld quite well for nearly three years.

[Qovetz] One of the things that might be different from the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability is, we understand, that this draft contains a clause banning the terrorists from attacking IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in south Lebanon. Do you think that clause will be approved?

[Rabinovich] I would prefer not to go into the details of the understandings being discussed before they are adopted.

[Friedman] On the assumption that Syria is behind Hizballah's military initiative which brought about a deterioration in the situation, and that Israel is about to achieve better understandings, what is Syria's strategic aim?

[Rabinovich] I have reservations about your question. Iran and not Syria is behind the attacks. Syria can have an impact and can stop them. We know it is prepared to make the necessary investment only if there is a comprehensive arrangement, and until that happens it is ready only to make partial payment and have partial influence. The initiative is still Iranian.

[Friedman] So how can you develop expectations that understandings or new agreements will come about and be upheld if you have been holding talks with Lebanon and Syria, and Iran is out of the picture?

[Rabinovich] The answer is that if Syria wants to, it can prevent Hizballah from operating. Iran's ability to influence Hizballah depends on a Syrian readiness to permit the Iranian channels of influence to operate in Lebanon via Damascus. Syria, at a certain price, can end the activity. What we have to do is to make the Syrians motivated enough to use their influence, which they were not prepared to do over the past two or three months.

[Qovetz] We would like to ask you about two remarks, one by the prime minister, who said that the operation will continue until understandings are reached; and the other by Minister Beilin, who said the completion of the operation does not depend on the negotiations being conducted. Which of these two positions is Israel presenting in its negotiations? Will the operation continue until understandings are achieved?

[Rabinovich] We always present the position of the prime minister.

[Qovetz] That was a diplomatic answer.

[Rabinovich] But also the truth.

Israel Wants Written Pledge From Syria To Stop Hizballah Attacks

NC1704075496 Paris AFP in English
0744 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, April 17 (AFP) — Israel is demanding that Syria gives a written undertaking that it will prevent Hizballah from carrying out any anti-Israeli attacks in exchange for a halt to its seven-day offensive, a Jordanian official told AFP on Wednesday [17 April].

Israel: Peres Prefers U.S. Mediation Over French*LD1604163696 Paris France-Info Radio in French 1500 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The French foreign minister was received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus today.

Frederic Barrere reports from Jerusalem:

[Barrere] Herve de Charette's tour is continuing in the Middle East, but with more modest objectives. The foreign minister came up against Shim'on Peres' strong willpower. The Israeli prime minister repeated to Herve de Charette that the military operation in Lebanon will continue, that it has no time limit but a number of targets to destroy.

According to the Israeli prime minister's entourage, Shim'on Peres reportedly added that Israel sees the United States, not France, as the obvious mediator in the crisis. [passage omitted]

Israel: French Foreign Minister Calls For 'Urgent, Rapid Cease-Fire'*NC1704092096 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 17 (AFP)—French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said Wednesday [17 April] he was returning to Israel to secure an immediate ceasefire in its seven-day-old offensive against Hizballah guerrillas in Lebanon.

"Now there has to be an urgent and rapid ceasefire. It cannot wait. There has been enough damage already and I'm going to Tel Aviv to argue this," de Charette said as he left Lebanon for Israel.

"I am going to press ahead with my mission until its total success," he said, adding that it would make second visits to Syria and Lebanon if necessary.

The French minister began his bid to broker a truce in the Lebanon conflict in Israel on Monday. On Tuesday he travelled to Damascus where he said he made "serious progress" in talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

He then flew to Beirut late Tuesday saying a concrete French proposal would be announced in a matter of hours or days.

"I believe we are quite clear now on the conditions for a return to calm, and they need to be based on the 1993 arrangements which provided some ground rules but we have to reinforce them and make them more precise," de Charette said.

He added that France wanted the new agreement to be written and approved by Israel, Syria and Lebanon.

The 1993 agreement was a tacit understanding between Israel and the Hizballah — brokered by the United States and Syria — to avoid attacking civilians on both sides.

A US peace plan calls for Syria to guarantee that Hizballah will halt all anti-Israeli attacks, including on troops in the security zone, while Israel will stop hitting Lebanese towns and villages.

Israel is also demanding that Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, give a written undertaking to guarantee an end to Hizballah attacks.

Israel: French Foreign Minister To Broker Cease-Fire With Hizballah*LD1704110396 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1035 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Herve De Charette, announced today that he is extending his mission in the Middle East to broker a cease-fire between Hizballah and Israel.

"I shall be staying for the time being," he said after a meeting he had with his Israeli counterpart, Ehud Barak, in Tel Aviv, upon arriving from Beirut.

As he was departing from the Lebanese capital, Herve de Charette said that he was going to "continue (his) mission until total success."

Israel: French Foreign Minister To Submit Peace Proposal to Peres*LD1704111196 Paris France-Info Radio in French 0930 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] France is going to make a specific proposal to put an end to the fighting in south Lebanon.

Herve De Charette is back in Israel today to submit this proposal to Shimon Peres.

Paris has asked for the assistance of the European Union to bring urgent aid to civilian refugees. [passage omitted]

Israel: Peres, Jordan's al-Kabariti News Conference*TA1604125896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1145 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[News conference by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—

live; broadcast in progress; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] *...I had the opportunity to show the prime minister a full picture about the developments that have proceeded in the confrontations in Lebanon, and also about the chances to bring an end to it. While Israel cannot show any impatience about it, we told the prime minister very clearly that we are interested to bring an end to the shooting, to the killing, to the bombing, to the suffering, completely and as soon as possible. Some ideas were raised how to do it in the best possible way. I do believe that we should keep in touch because for both Jordan and Israel peace is a high priority, and a comprehensive peace is a major target. So, we should think and work together to attain those purposes.*

[Al-Kabariti] *Thank you very much indeed, Sir. I was very much honored to convey his majesty's greetings to the prime minister. Definitely, I had also to convey his majesty's worries about the situation. There is a sense of alarm in Jordan and within the Jordanian public. This situation is really dangerous and explosive and it could escalate and, as the prime minister said, peace is really a high priority, and it is a top priority here in Israel and definitely in Jordan and within the Jordanian public. [words indistinct due to voiceover translation into Hebrew] ...the achievements and build on it, and we think that this situation is not really conducive to maintain and restore the tracks that were going smoothly and were given... [words indistinct due to voiceover translation into Hebrew] ...peace could really be comprehensive in the area.*

I had a very sincere and frank discussion with the prime minister. We discussed the situation, whether it is... [words indistinct due to voiceover translation into Hebrew] I hope that we still have plenty of room to save the process. I was told by the prime minister that there are negotiations, and serious and sincere efforts are being conducted to come to some kind of an agreement to stop this bloodshed and stem this cycle of violence. I am very confident about the sincerity of the prime minister and the Israeli Government that they do not want this thing to drag and endanger the whole process of peace. I hope that Jordan could really contribute to the cause of peace because we feel that peace is in the best interest of the future of the area. Thank you again, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Qol Yisra'el's political correspondent Shlomo Raz] Two interesting pronouncements have been made in the last few hours. One by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman who said — and I quote: If Israel stops the attacks on civilian villages in south Lebanon,

Hizballah may hold its fire. The second was made by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who said that the understandings of Operation Accountability could be renewed. Could these be used to engage in more intensive negotiations and actually to call off the military action in Lebanon?

[Peres] We did not start it, and we will be very happy to stop it. We do not want to wake up in the morning and have shelling and bombardments for breakfast; we do not want that at all. If an understanding can be reached, we will be happy to reach one.

[Raz] I understand that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue to operate as long as the katyusha attacks continue — and katyushas were also fired today.

[Peres] Yes. We didn't start the firing this morning, but those who started firing katyushas will obviously have to draw the necessary conclusions.

[Raz] Having said that, what about a political move? President Clinton said the United States has been doing its best.

[Peres] Indeed, the United States is engaged in an effort to reach an understanding. We welcome it although we were not the ones who initiated it. Neither did we set the attainment of this or that type of arrangement as a condition. We have a clear and explicit goal: not to have Israeli citizens come under fire. We have no intention whatsoever of firing on Lebanese civilians. Don't let them use civilian villages to fire on our troops.

[IDF Radio's Udi Segal] I would like to ask you, Sir, whether you consider the negotiations and the contacts the Americans are holding at this time, which aim to put an end to the fighting in the north, also a basis for the resumption of the peace negotiations with Syria?

[Peres] Not necessarily. I would like to say that I have nothing but praise for the U.S. stand: It is really explicit, unequivocal, and as such was very instrumental in creating the possibility of conducting negotiations. At the same time, I would not like to link the cessation of firing across the border with anything else. This aim is important enough in itself.

[Israel Television Channel 1's Shlomi Eldar] What position is Israel presenting in the political negotiation on the Lebanon issue which are presently being conducted? We understand that the Americans, the French, and the British are all active. What is the red line Israel is presenting today?

[Peres] I made my stand very clear, if you heard me. I said: They should stop shooting at civilians and stop firing at our soldiers from civilian villages.

[Eldar] How do you view the future? Do you consider the Syrians and the Lebanese responsible for Hizballah activity?

[Peres] Does such a declaration matter? We know exactly who has influence over whom, and there is no doubt that in the current situation, the instructions come from Tehran, but Damascus also has a very strong influence on the extent of such or other developments.

[Unidentified correspondent] *This is a question to the Jordanian prime minister. Your remark saying it was frank. Do I understand from that that there are differences between the two of you [words indistinct due to voiceover translation into Hebrew]? The British defense secretary was here today and said: If it was not for the Hizballah attacks, this would not have happened. I was wondering how do you see it.*

As for you, Mr. Peres, yesterday you said it is too early to negotiate. In the last 24 hours, it seems that a lot has happened. Haven't you changed your mind? Can you give us more details on the American mediation efforts?

[Al-Kabariti] Well, as far as I am concerned, I believe everybody knows that Jordan and Israel enjoy a very good working relationship. We intend to preserve this kind of relationship and we feel that we could capitalize on this good relationship for a good cause, and we hope that this situation will not in any way endanger the good atmosphere that is prevailing between Israel and all the countries that have decided to join the peace camp.

The way that I wanted to be frank when I talked to the prime minister is to convey how the public opinion is feeling towards, you know, the recent events. I told him how frustrated, and how shocked, and how angry the public opinion is because this cycle of violence does not seem to be able to be contained [words indistinct due to voiceover translation into Hebrew]. I was not engaged in any game of, you know, scoring points or laying the blame. We are talking about violence and we are talking about the need, the sincere need, to stop it.

[Peres] And I will say that I do not believe it was the Lebanese Government that has urged the Hizballah to open fire. The problem is that the Lebanese Government does not possess the strength to stop Hizballah. They cannot have a state within a state — a state of Hizballah within the Lebanese State — and an army within an army. The army within the army started, really, the whole shooting game. No, I did not say that we are unwilling to negotiate. I said we shall not take the initiative to start negotiations, but I said [words indistinct due to voiceover translation into Hebrew]. Yes, we welcome it, why not?

[Question indistinct]

[Peres] *Once we shall reach the agreement, I shall give you a full rundown of the agreement.*

[Al-Kabariti] *There are contacts and there are negotiations, I might answer on his behalf. [laughing]*

[Peres] *You are a good friend.*

Israel: Further on Peres, Jordan's al-Kabariti News Conference

JN1604190796 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[News conference by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on 16 April; place not given—recorded; italicized passages in English-]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Peres] *We were extremely pleased because the prime minister is not giving the business, and he is really a man of wide knowledge and great understanding, and we really have a very good meeting, I believe. We gave the prime minister a full picture about the developments that have preceded the confrontations in Lebanon, and also about the chances to bring an end to it. While Israel cannot show any impatience about it, we told the prime minister very clearly that we are interested to bring an end to the shooting, to the killing, to the bombing, to the suffering, completely and as soon as possible. Some ideas were raised how to do it in the best possible way. I do believe that we should keep in touch because for both Jordan and Israel peace is a high priority, and a comprehensive peace is a major target. So, we should think and work together to attain those purposes. Welcome sir.*

[Al-Kabariti] *Thank you very much indeed, sir. I was very much honored to convey his majesty's greetings to the prime minister. Definitely, I had also to convey his majesty's worries about the situation. There is a sense of alarm in Jordan and within the Jordanian public. The situation is really dangerous and explosive, and it could escalate and, as the prime minister said, peace is really a high priority, and it is a top priority here in Israel and definitely in Jordan and within the Jordanian public. We want to save the peace, and we want to preserve the achievements and build on it, and we think that this situation is not really conducive to maintain and restore the tracks that were going smoothly and were given all the signals peace could really be comprehensive in the area.*

I had a very sincere, very frank discussion with the prime minister. We analyzed the situation, whether the situation in Lebanon or in the territories. I hope that we

still have plenty of room to save the process. I was told by the prime minister that there are negotiations taking place, and there are serious and sincere efforts being conducted to come to some kind of an agreement to stop this bloodshed and to stem this cycle of violence. I am very confident about the sincerity of the prime minister and the Israeli Government that they do not want this thing to drag and endanger the whole process of peace. I hope that Jordan could really contribute to the cause of peace because we feel that peace is in the best interest of Jordan and of the future of the area. Thank you again, Mr. Prime Minister. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] *The remarks saying that was frank; do I understand from that differences between the two of you. Do you blame....*

[Peres, interrupting] We are not Russians.

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] *Mr. Peres, do you seek [changes thought]. Yesterday, you said it is too early to negotiate. In the last 24 hours, it seems a lot has happened. Have you not changed your mind? Can you give us more details on the American mediation efforts?*

[Al-Kabariti] *Well, as far as I am concerned, I believe that everybody knows that Jordan and Israel enjoy a very good working relationship. And we intend to preserve this kind of relationship, and we feel that we could capitalize on this good relationship for a good cause, and we hope that this situation will not in any way endanger the good atmosphere that is prevailing between Israel and all the countries that have decided to join the peace camp.*

And the way that I wanted to be frank about when I talked to the prime minister is conveying how the public opinion is feeling towards, you know, the recent events. And I told him how frustrated, and how shocked, and how angry, you know, the public opinion is because this cycle of violence does not seem to be able to be contained and stopped. And something has to be done, and we hope that we could work together to stop it and go back to the peaceful track.

[Correspondent] *So is one side more to blame than the other? Would you say....*

[Al-Kabariti, interrupting] *Well, I was not engaged in any game of, you know, scoring points or laying the blame. We were talking about violence and we are talking about the need, the sincere need, to stop it.*

[Peres] *Well, I would say that I do not believe it was the Lebanese Government that has urged Hizballah to open fire. The problem is that the Lebanese Government does not possess the strength to stop the Hizballah*

from shooting. And the fact is that there is almost a state within a state — a state of Hizballah within the Lebanese State — and an army within an army. And the army within the army started it really, the whole shooting game. No, I did not say that we are unwilling to negotiate. I said that we shall not take initiative to start negotiations, but I said also yesterday and before yesterday that if there will be a proposal to negotiate, why not? We prefer to negotiate rather than to shoot. Obviously, we were approached by the United States. Yes, we welcome it. Why not?

[Correspondent] *Can you give us any details?*

[Peres] *Once we shall reach the agreement, I shall give you a full rundown of the agreement.*

[Correspondent] *Now, we are in the intense mediations and negotiations right now, they would be fair, and not to worry any more?*

[Peres] *Too early to give a full detail about the (?conclusion).*

[Correspondent] *In the heart of the negotiations, the secret quiet negotiations.*

[Al-Kabariti] *There are contacts and there are negotiations. I might answer on his behalf. [laughing]*

[Peres] *You see you are (?really) a good friend.*

[Correspondent] *Mr. Prime Minister: A question in Arabic. After your talks with the Israeli side, what is the impression that you will carry with you to Amman and other Arab capitals?*

[Al-Kabariti] *You are perfectly aware that the Arab League will hold a meeting tomorrow. You are also aware that this meeting will discuss the recent dangerous developments in Lebanon, which could endanger the peace process. I believe that most of the Arab states that will take part in the meeting tomorrow are really concerned about the peace process and about helping it to reach its logical results. Consequently, it is my hope that the Jordanian contacts, the consultations we held today, and the contacts his majesty the king has made over the past five days will all serve peace-loving forces, which are working to salvage the peace process and halt the spiral of violence and counterviolence. We will tell the fraternal Arabs who will meet tomorrow that the Jordanian efforts will be in line and harmony with all the efforts that aim to safeguard the peace process and enable it to achieve its logical results.*

Israel: No Damage as Katyushas Land in Galilee Panhandle

TA1704042196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A volley of katushas landed in the Galilee Panhandle this morning, but there were neither casualties nor damage. Yesterday, the terrorists succeeded in lobbying 70 katushas despite the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] offensive.

Major General Matan Vilna'i, deputy chief of staff, said that the IDF is far from having exhausted its capabilities in its offensive in Lebanon. The Air Force has so far carried out over 1,000 sorties in Lebanon.

Israel: Some Damage Reported in Second Round of Katyushas

TA1704045496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0445 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A second round of katushas landed in the Galilee Panhandle a short time ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman, who is in the north, is on the telephone:

[Litman] The details we can report are that several katushas were lobbed at the Galilee Panhandle a short time ago, causing some damage. One person suffered shock. That is all we can say at this stage.

Israel: Katyushas Fired on Western Galilee

TA1704071396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Another katusha volley landed in an open field in the Western Galilee a few minutes ago. A volley landed in an open field in the Galilee Panhandle an hour ago, and nobody was hurt. Earlier, rockets hit Qiryat Shemona. One of the katushas hit a house, wounding one person in the face. Property was damaged.

News agencies have reported that Israeli aircraft and guns resumed fire at targets in the Tyre area.

It was reported that the Air Force's planned rehearsals for the Independence Day flyover have been postponed. They were due to be held over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem today.

Israel: 5 Katyusha Salvoes on Galilee

TA1704092096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Five katusha salvoes were lobbed on the Galilee Panhandle and the Western Galilee this morning, mostly in open areas. There were

no casualties, except for a Qiryat Shemona resident who was slightly scratched in the face, but damage was caused.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] resumed its attacks on Hizballah targets with aircraft, helicopter gunships, and guns. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that some 15 targets were attacked over the past two hours. [passage omitted]

Political circles in Jerusalem said that Israel hopes to reach an agreement with Lebanon and indirectly with Syria, but Hizballah is not an interlocutor, our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk conferred with Foreign Minister Ehud Barak in Tel Aviv this morning on drafting new understandings to end the fighting in the north. The Syrian president has still not reacted to the Israeli and American positions.

Israel: Deputy Chief of Staff Says Hizballah Shelling Less Accurate

TA1704101996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Matan Vilna'i, deputy chief of staff, said Hizballah katusha shelling has become less accurate and the rockets are being fired from deep inside Lebanon in the wake of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] actions along the front line. He also said that the number of Hizballah fatalities is higher than the figure claimed by the organization.

Israel: No Casualties in 6 Katyusha Volleys on Galilee Settlements

TA1704112196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Six volleys of katushas have been lobbed at Galilee settlements since the morning. They did not cause any casualties, but damage was caused in several places. The sixth salvo was fired at the Galilee Panhandle about an hour ago, and nobody was hurt. [passage omitted]

The French foreign minister conferred with Foreign Minister Barak this morning and reported on what he heard in Beirut. Our correspondent Dan Eshel has learned that Lebanon reiterates its position that it is prepared to defend the security zone if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from it. The French speak about the full implementation of the understandings reached in 1993. The French foreign minister announced that he is extending his stay in the region to be available to the sides. [passage omitted]

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that Operation Grapes of Wrath must not end in the agreement of understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability. We are not interested in a lull of several weeks until the elections; therefore, the government must employ stronger pressure on Syria. He spoke at a gathering of Agudat Yisra'el leaders. [passage omitted]

Israel: 'Grapes of Wrath' To Continue; Peres Urges 'Patience'

TA1704082296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, this morning participated in an assessment of the situation in the north with the chief of staff and senior commanders at Northern Command headquarters, and it was decided to continue operating against Hizballah targets.

Prime Minister Peres urged patience over the continuation of Operation Grapes of Wrath. We do not have any guarantee that it will end within one day or several days, and it is better not to build up false hopes, Peres said. He explained that at least four elements are to participate in the agreement that will lead to ending the military action in the north — the Lebanese, the Syrians, the Americans, and ourselves — and each has its own interests and outlooks.

Peres stressed that this time, Israel aspires to reaching a written document unlike the oral agreements achieved following Operation Accountability. The prime minister spoke with our correspondent Gil Litman when he visited an unmanned aerial vehicle unit in the north.

Israel: Jerusalem Expected To Accept 'Compromise' in Security Zone

TA1704091896 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 17 Apr 96 pp 4-5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel is making efforts to attain new and "improved" understandings that will guarantee in the future that Hizballah will not be permitted under any circumstances to fire at Israel's northern settlements.

Yesterday, sources close to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres firmly denied reports originating in Beirut about a six-point plan that had ostensibly been submitted to the parties. The sources assessed that contacts between the sides were just at their beginning and that "slow and extremely difficult negotiations" were to be expected before any understandings were reached.

The sources reported that Prime Minister Peres has formed a limited forum to handle the negotiations. This forum includes Foreign Minister Ehud Barak; Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq; Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary; Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir; and Yo'el Singer, Justice Ministry legal adviser. Yesterday, Savir met with U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk for four hours. Both men were also slated to meet late last night. [passage omitted]

The sources close to Peres assessed that Israel would eventually have to accept a compromise in the security zone, since Syria has no intention of disavowing Hizballah's right to operate against SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the security zone. Therefore, it is merely hoped that the renewed understandings will guarantee quiet for Israel's northern settlements, rather than a total cessation of military activities in the security zone.

Israel hopes that a mechanism designed to supervise the implementation of the understandings will be established within the framework of the negotiations. Jerusalem would also like the talks to continue until Syria, Lebanon, and Israel reach a comprehensive agreement. [passage omitted]

Israel: Government Adviser on Political End to Current Crisis

MS1704082896 London Channel 4 Television Network
in English 1800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, Israeli Government adviser on Lebanon, by presenter Jon Snow on 16 April; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] I've been speaking to Uri Lubrani, who is the Israeli prime minister's chief policy adviser on Lebanon. And I began by asking him what was the purpose behind Israel's attack on the Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon?

[Lubrani] Well you know that the strike was directed against a person who is rejecting the peace process, who is acting against chairman 'Arafat, who has been sending terrorist groups, in unison with Hizballah, into our security zone. He is a terrorist and we want to get him.

[Snow] Yes, but you didn't kill him; you killed a two-year old child instead.

[Lubrani] Well this is very, very, very unfortunate, but we hit his home.

[Snow] But the difficulty surely is that you are saying you've got sort of intelligence and high-tech weaponry that can achieve these ends, and it simply doesn't.

[Lubrani] Well sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't. It's just one of those things.

[Snow] Then let's look at the power station in Beirut. Now this is a power station which feeds a huge amount of the Lebanese infrastructure in the capital city. You've knocked it out. They said it's going to take at least 18 months of black-outs to get it right. What was the point of hitting that?

[Lubrani] Well first of all I don't think it will take 18 months or so. This was not a power station it was a relay station. It wasn't a power station. A power station would have taken much longer to put right. But we have said that we are going to hit Lebanese government infrastructure, just to drive the point home. They've got to stand up to their responsibility to their people. They have got to do something about terror being directed from their territory to ours.

[Snow] Yes but then we live in a real world and you know exactly who in fact runs the Lebanese Government and that's the Syrians with whom you broke off discussions in Washington.

[Lubrani] We didn't break off discussions with Syria in Lebanon, they broke off discussions with us in the first instance. And if Syria had wanted to make progress on the discussions with us we would have been long, long, long ahead of where we are now.

[Snow] The longer this goes on isn't the danger that you are using greater and greater fire power to crack what is a very unpleasant but small nut, and you're running the danger that the whole peace process will unravel?

[Lubrani] Well I sincerely hope that it will not. I mean we have been leaning backwards on this operation for a very, very, very long time. Our people have been subjected to Katyusha fires — indiscriminate and without any pretext whatsoever, this has been the erosion which the understandings of 1993 — of July 1993 — have been subjected to. I mean there came a point when we had to say enough is enough, and to rouse the attention of the government of Lebanon to its responsibility. They should be responsible. If they have an agreement with Syria they should go to Syria and tell them that it's time that they restrained Hizballah.

[Snow] Mr. Lubrani do you regard this as a limited operation or an open-ended one? Will we say in ten days time, still be talking on these bases?

[Lubrani] I would sincerely hope that this is not an open-ended operation by any means. And if you ask me, there is the beginning of a political process taking shape. I cannot at this point in time say exactly where it will lead and what kind of shape and form it will take,

but it's there. It's a beginning and I hope that with in a reasonable short time we will have an arrangement.

[Snow] An arrangement with Hizballah?

[Lubrani] We're not negotiating with Hizballah. But an arrangement in which the United States Government and Syria will be involved.

Israel: Peres, 'Arafat To Hold First Meeting Since Bombings on Weekend

*TA1604163696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1600 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the coming weekend, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that this will be their first meeting since the suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. They will discuss security issues, certain way to alleviate the closure, and the imminent convention of the Palestine National Council.

Israel: Shahal, Meridor Comment on Return of PNC Members

*TA1604063696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal said that in the past three weeks, the Palestinian Authority has transferred to Israel information on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activities as well as explosives seized in Gaza.

Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, Minister Shahal explained that Israel had permitted Nayif Hawatimah, Layla Khalid, and Abu-Dawud [Muhammad Dawud 'Awdah] to return to Gaza so that the Palestinians will have no excuse not to amend the Palestinian Charter.

Likud Knesset Member Dan Meridor told Qol Yisra'el that the government is permitting diehard terrorists to enter the territories and has even dropped its demand that they renounce terrorism. Meridor said that the returnees plan to stay in the territories and that the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC] is merely a pretext for their return.

Israel: IDF General Apologizes for Remarks on Peres

*TA1704054896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Giora 'Inbar, chief of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] liaison unit with Lebanon, has apologized for saying yesterday that the IDF would not permit a situation to arise

whereby Prime Minister Peres suddenly stops it before it completes its mission.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Brig. Gen. 'Inbar said he regrets his lamentable remarks and their convoluted wording and apologizes if anybody was hurt by them. He added that he did not intend to question the authority of the political echelon, and that the army is not worried that somebody in the political echelon does not understand how much time is needed for the implementation of the mission. In response to a question, he made it clear that he does not intend to resign.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 17 April adds: "Chief of staff Amnon Lipkin Shahaq said that remarks by the Israeli commander in Lebanon, Brig. Gen. Giyora 'Inbar, were stupid and senseless." The IDF spokesman said that "Brig. Gen. 'Inbar apologized for his remarks. He clarified that there was no intention in his remarks of undermining the authority of the country's elected leaders."]

Jordan: King Discusses Lebanon With Egyptian, Saudi Leaders

JN1604194296 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1913 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king discussed the situation in Lebanon with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a telephone conversation tonight.

Both leaders said action should be taken to halt the Israeli offensive against Lebanon, which they agreed threatens the peace process. The discussions also dealt with ways of supporting the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate rights and end the Israeli closure on Palestinian areas.

His Majesty also discussed the situation in Lebanon with Saudi Prime Minister Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Saudi Minister of Defense Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during two separate phone calls.

Both sides agreed that the best way to end conflict was through negotiations and dialogue.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Returns From Israel Visit, Received by King

JN1604175996 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti made a brief working visit to Israel. The visit is a continuation of the Jordanian moves started a few days ago, represented by the contacts His Majesty King Husayn held with several Arab leaders, the king's meeting with the envoys of the five big powers in Amman, and his meeting with the envoys of the European troika states.

Immediately on his return from Israel, al-Kabariti informed His Majesty King Husayn of the outcome of his visit, during which he relayed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on recent developments in southern Lebanon and the continuation of Israeli military operations in Lebanon.

The prime minister and his delegation held a meeting with the Israeli side headed by Shim'on Peres and Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak. During the meeting, al-Kabariti asserted that Jordan is opposed to anything that could obstruct the Middle East peace process. He also underlined Jordan's eagerness to support fraternal Lebanon's unity and independence. Furthermore, he

asserted Jordan's support for the Lebanese Government in its efforts to extend its authority over all Lebanese territories.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv, the director of the prime minister's office, the economic adviser at the Prime Ministry, and the prime minister's special secretary. On the Israeli side, it was attended by Foreign Minister Ehud Barak; Yosi Beilin, minister at the Israeli Prime Minister's Office; the director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Israeli ambassador in Amman; the head of the Middle East Department at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the military adviser to the prime minister; and several other Israeli officials.

The prime minister also touched on the difficult situation experienced by our Palestinian brothers as a result of the security siege and blockade clamped on them. He stressed the need to lift this siege to enable the peace process to make progress in order to achieve the desired just peace.

For its part, the Israeli side asserted that it is serious in its efforts to ease the closure in order to create firm foundations for the resumption of the peace process.

Jordan: Information Minister Discusses al-Kabariti Visit to Israel

JN1604203296 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On the prime minister's visit to Israel, Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir spoke to reporters saying:

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] Today, the prime minister paid a brief visit to the Israeli Prime Ministry in Jerusalem to cap the intensive diplomatic efforts made by his majesty the king over the past few days. He relayed a message from his majesty the king to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on recent developments in Lebanon, the need to halt the dangerous bloodshed there, and the need to find a solution to halt this bloodshed and resume the peace process.

During the talks, the prime minister also expressed Jordan's concern over the suffering of the kinsfolk in the West Bank as a result of the closure. This issue was thoroughly discussed. The Israelis demonstrated seriousness and willingness to take measures within a short time period to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering to prepare for laying the firm groundwork that would help the resumption of the peace process.

The prime minister also communicated the indignation, anger, and frustration felt by the Arab public in general

due to the Lebanese developments. He stressed that this factor should be taken into account. He also underlined the need to find a quick solution. Intense diplomatic activity is currently under way. It is our hope that within the next few days this activity will produce an agreement between all parties to halt this bloodshed and resume the peace process.

The prime minister also visited the premises of Israeli President Ezer Weizman. Al-Kabariti relayed a similar message to him.

The talks were very thorough. Several Israeli officials assigned the task of following up the peace dossier took part in the talks. They included Foreign Minister Ehud Barak; Yosi Beilin, minister at the Prime Ministry; Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (?Youav Biran), head of the Middle East Department at the ministry; (Dani Yatom), military adviser to the prime minister; the Israeli ambassador in Amman, as well as other officials. [end recording]

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir—No Plans To Suspend Peace Process

JN1604112496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
16 Apr 96 p 25

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said His Majesty King Husayn is personally following the news of the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. His majesty intensified his efforts over the past two days by contacting several officials in the United States, Lebanon, Israel and European countries.

Speaking during his weekly press briefing at the Marriott Hotel, al-Mu'ashshir said the Jordanian Government is engaged in intensive diplomatic activities to stop the deterioration in Lebanon, which is threatening the peace process. [passage omitted]

The information minister denied the existence of any Arab plot against Hizballah. He said: Jordan's objective is to stop the Israeli attacks on the south. We in Jordan have no influence on Hizballah. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the Jordanian opposition's request that the peace process be suspended in light of Israel's aggression against Lebanon, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: In our opinion, the solution is not to halt the peace process. On the contrary, we want quick solutions to resume the peace process. The peace process proved its efficacy in many instances. However, it is now going through a difficult crisis. We want to act to contain this crisis and resume the peace process. Jordan has no intention whatsoever of halting the peace process.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir denied reports that the deployment of U.S. aircraft in Jordan was a political message to Iraq. He said the purpose of the deployment is very clear and has nothing to do with Iraq. He said U.S. aircraft have been flying over Iraq for five years, with Baghdad's knowledge. In addition, the Security Council resolution according to which these aircraft began their surveillance missions was adopted in coordination with Iraq. We in Jordan have been very careful not to violate Security Council resolutions. This means that if the aircraft fly directly from Jordan, then they will fly above Parallel 32, and we will not do this. Therefore, the aircraft will fly to Saudi Arabia and then to Iraq in observance of Parallel 32.

Jordan's main objective in this context is to modernize its airports and air bases and train its pilots at no cost. We have no message for Iraq. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Minister Leaves for Cairo Meetings on Lebanon Events

JN1604174096 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalid al-Madadiah, left Amman for Cairo this afternoon to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers council meeting, which will begin in the Egyptian capital on Wednesday [17 April].

The meeting will discuss the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon, the escalation of the Israeli military actions, and the deterioration of the security situation in the fraternal state that coincides with the siege imposed on the Palestinian self-rule areas, which threatens the peace process in the region.

The Arab League meeting comes within the framework of the efforts the Arab League is carrying out in the Arab and international arenas to support the Lebanese Government's position and to prevent further tension, fighting, and instability, and to stop the serious bloodshed in Lebanon.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Confers With European Troika Delegation

JN1604173096 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has met in his office the troika delegation, headed by Italian Deputy Foreign Minister [Ludivico Anasheza De Camerina].

The talks dealt with European role in the peace process in the light of Palermo declaration last month. The meeting also discussed the tense situation in Lebanon.

The troika team affirmed the European support for the peace process and its readiness to do anything for achieving security and stability in the area.

Mr. Camerina said that Premier al-Kabariti appreciated the aim of the troika visit to the region saying that there are identical ideas and shared concepts between the EU [European Union] and the Jordanian Government. The Italian official added that the EU members expect positive results of the premier's visit to Israel. He expressed hope that the crisis in Lebanon be settled soon indicating that the cease-fire between Israel and Hizballah group may be a new opportunity to reactivate the peace process.

He said without peace, violence and terror could not be rooted out. He was upbeat for upcoming peace in the region, which would create a common ground for future prosperity for the Mideastern peoples.

Jordan: Political Parties Protest Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

*JN1604201196 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1655 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 16 Apr (PETRA)—A number of Jordanian parties staged a sit-in in front of the UN headquarters in Amman today to protest the Israeli aggression on the Lebanese territories.

The party leaders handed to the administrative manager at the UN Office a memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali urging him to undertake a quick move to stop the aggression and prevent the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon.

These parties demanded that every possible effort be made to bring about a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territories and enable the Lebanese people to regain all their usurped national rights as well as to implement Security Council Resolution 425.

The memorandum said that the aggression—in which innocent children, women, and civilians fell victim—is a flagrant violation of the UN resolutions, a blow to international charters, an encroachment upon human rights, and a threat to the region.

The memorandum stressed that peace and stability in the Arab region cannot be achieved under the continued Israeli occupation.

Taking part in the sit-in were the secretaries and cadres of the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Pan-Arab

Action Party-Haqq, the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party.

Jordan: Cease-Fire in Lebanon, Resumption of Peace Talks Urged

*JN1604123196 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
16 Apr 96 p 19*

[Editorial: "A Cease-Fire in Lebanon Is Not Enough"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is true that the current situation in the south and several other areas of Lebanon deems it a priority to stop military operations, which have caused and continue to cause serious damage to civilians. However, bridging Arab, regional, and international efforts on reaching a cease-fire and preventing more military operations, on one hand, and resuming peace negotiations to achieve peace in the region, on the other, is something that must be accomplished. This is so Lebanon and the region will no longer be threatened by violence and counterviolence and the resulting serious harm to innocent people and the peace process.

Reports yesterday about U.S. and French initiatives to prevent the further deterioration of the situation on the Lebanese front and about a visit by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti to Tel Aviv today, represent a regional and international move toward supporting the peace process, starting with a halt of military operations. It is hoped that Arab, regional, and international political initiatives will take into consideration the Jordanian view expressed in the past few days and which will be reiterated by the prime minister during his visit to Tel Aviv today. The view is that full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territories in the south and stopping any outside interference in Lebanon's affairs is the main element for establishing a lasting peace on the Lebanese track of negotiations.

It is clear that violence, counterviolence, and actions by extremists in the region are political issues. This is also linked to activating the negotiations and expeditiously achieving satisfactory results. Without such action toward realizing a final and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause and all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a suitable environment for violence and extremism will remain elusive, regardless of how accurate and strict the measures, security agreements, and cease-fire resolutions may be.

Military operations should immediately stop on the Lebanese front, which has been ablaze for approximately a week. This should be paralleled by immediate action toward a peaceful solution on the Lebanese and

Syrian tracks and completing the course of agreements. This course of agreements began on the Palestinian track in Oslo. Because of well-known stalling, the course of agreements is now facing a difficult situation that has had a negative effect on peace and its advocates, who accepted and supported it and expressed legitimate aspirations in terms of improving living conditions under which suffering would be lifted.

With the necessary and important success of Jordanian and international efforts to lift the suffering of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and with the expeditious and brave resumption of the negotiations on all tracks, the region would overcome an important test of willpower with the enemies of security and stability on both sides until the real goal of the peoples in the region is achieved — that is, justice, dignity, stability, and the right to improve the standard of living based on equitability and mutual respect amongst all.

Jordan: Weekly Reports '3 More' Iraqi Diplomats Expelled

JN1604114196 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
17 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Government expelled three more Iraqi diplomats on charges of working for Iraqi intelligence. The Jordanian Government recently reduced its diplomatic staff in Baghdad. It also expelled the Iraqi military attache and the assistant to the cultural attache at the Iraqi Embassy over the past two weeks. Informed sources say the Iraqi diplomatic mission in Amman now has 11 people.

Jordan: 'Gang' Led by Iraqi Army Officer Kills 3 Jordanians in Iraq

JN1704091296 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Ugly Crime Against Three Jordanians: Criminals Kill the Youths, Hack Their Bodies; Iraqis Asked to Provide Details"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The security agencies asked, through diplomatic channels, the Iraqi security agencies to provide them with the details and results of investigations into the killing of three Jordanian youths who were on their way to Baghdad aboard a truck laden with sugar. The three are: Muhammad Khayr Hasan Abu-Zayd, Muhammad Salih Abu-Zayd, and 'Izz-al-Din al-Duwayri.

The bodies of the three young men arrived at al-Karamah border center at 2000 on Monday [15 April]. They were buried following funeral service at Sahab Grand Mosque amid tight security measures. Reports say that the Jordanian truck, bearing license plate No.

606605, was carrying 20 tonnes of sugar when it crossed into Iraq. It was driven by Muhammad Khayr Hasan Abu-Zayd, 24, accompanied by Muhammad Salih Abu-Zayd, 22, and 'Izz-al-Din al-Duwayri, 28, from the village of Kitim.

Reports say the truck was intercepted by a gang led by a lieutenant colonel in the Iraqi Army and comprised of military personnel after traveling a few kilometers toward Baghdad. They stole the goods, disassembled the truck, tied the three youths with ropes, and buried the truck in the sand using a bulldozer. Then they killed the young men, hacked their bodies into pieces, and scattered them in the desert. Relatives of the young men said that the Iraqi security agencies arrested the criminals who confessed to their crime.

About 600 Jordanian trucks travel on the Amman-Baghdad line. They carry foodstuffs that help save the Iraqi people from the tragedy they are facing due to the embargo.

Jordan: Officials Interviewed on Joint Jordan-U.S. Air Force Exercises

JN1404060596 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Apr 96

["Excerpts of joint news conference" by Major General Muhammad Khayr al-'Ababinah, Royal Jordanian Air Force chief of staff; Nasir Judah, Jordan Television director general; Brigadier General Bill Looney, commander of the U.S. Air Power Expeditionary Force; and Robert Beecroft, Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman on 13 April—recorded; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Judah] As you know, aircraft from the U.S. Air Force arrived in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to hold joint training exercises with their counterparts in the Jordanian Air Force. These planes will also carry out air sorties over Iraq as part of the air surveillance over northern Iraq which some countries undertake in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Al-'Ababinah] Since 1981, the Royal Jordanian Air Force [RJAF] has been taking part in joint exercises with friendly forces, including the U.S. Air Force. Various exercises are held within this framework that allow us to become familiar with all that is new and modern in the field of air operations, technical training methods, and maintenance of equipment.

The most important of these exercises is the Eager Tiger exercise which is held at this time every year. Various types of Jordanian and U.S. Air force planes

participate in this exercise. This exercise coincides with the deployment of the U.S. planes tasked to monitor southern Iraq during the period of 12 April through mid June 1996.

Agreement was reached with the U.S. side to conduct the exercise during the deployment period and to have several F-16 planes participate to give as many pilots and technicians as possible the opportunity for field training and familiarization with the plane's operational and technical capabilities in preparation for their assimilation as quickly as possible and maintaining them at the lowest of costs, particularly since we will receive an F-16 squadron in 1997.

One of the duties of the participating planes is to carry out reconnaissance sorties over southern Iraq in line with the UN resolutions. I would like to affirm here that first, these planes will not directly cross Iraqi airspace from the borders of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Second, the RJAF will not participate in any of these sorties. No other air force from the region participates.

[Looney] *We have had a strong relationship with the Royal Jordanian Air force. It has been developed over the years through officer exchanges, various training opportunities, and exercises held both here and in the United States. I find it very fortunate that we will have an opportunity to train with, and fly with, an air force which we know very well and respect very highly.*

One of the great benefits, as I have said, in coming to Jordan is the opportunity to train with the RJAF. We will be flying training missions with them within Jordan, and our pilots, our maintenance professionals, and our support personnel will be working side by side with our Jordanian counterparts. We desire to provide the Royal Jordanian Air Force some valuable first-hand knowledge in all aspects of operating the F-16 as the Royal Jordanian Air Force prepares for the arrival of their own F-16 squadron in 1997.

Although the AF [Air Force] will fly some Southern Watch missions, it is important to remember that the majority of our missions will be flown with the Jordanians in training sorties or in training sorties among the AEF [Airpower Expeditionary Force] participants. We will be establishing facilities that the Royal Jordanian Air Force will be able to use for their F-16's. These improvements include maintenance and engine-test-run facilities, and additionally we will also be leaving behind some aircraft support equipment for the Royal Jordanian use.

[Unidentified correspondent] *General al-'Ababinah, will the Jordanian pilots fly on the Southern Watch over Iraq.*

[Al-'Ababinah] *No, and a big no.*

[Judah] *Short answer, but concise.*

[Correspondent] *What is Jordan's position on the Syrian criticism of these exercises, especially since they are conducting exercises in the Gulf?*

[Judah] *The position is clear. We respect the sovereign decisions of sisterly Syria, and all should respect the sovereign decisions of Jordan. We do not think that the presence of U.S. forces for the reason of joint training with the Royal Jordanian Air Force, which is something that has been going on for more than 15 or 16 years, will lead to any flaw in the strategic balance in the region. This is something very normal for us. As for the flights over Iraq, they are part of the strategy of the Gulf war allies in implementing the UN resolutions, and are not something abnormal.*

[Correspondent] *Mr. al-'Ababinah, was it not possible to postpone the joint Jordanian-U.S. maneuvers until another time, because there is a coincidence between the Jordanian-U.S. maneuvers and the flights over Iraq, and the subject will assume political dimensions concerning the Jordanian position on Iraq?*

[Al-'Ababinah] *First, these are not joint maneuvers, they are joint exercises. Conducting such exercises requires much planning. This was something that had been agreed upon more than six months ago. These are joint exercises and not joint maneuvers. These joint exercises do not have any links with what is going on in the region. I assure you that the exercises were agreed on more than six months ago.*

[Judah] *I want to explain. It seems that some brothers and sisters are not aware of the joint military training program between the Jordanian Armed Forces and the U.S. Armed Forces over more than a decade. In fact, these exercises are part of a series of joint training exercises that have been programmed in advance, and are not something new.*

[Caroline Faraj, JORDAN TIMES correspondent] *The first one, you haven't mentioned from where you are going to fly over Iraq. You've mentioned that it is not going to be from Jordan. Could you mention from where you are going to fly. That's number one, and number two is for Mr. Beecroft: Does that mean that Jordan took the guarantees for financing the F-16's, because we've heard that Jordan got the guarantees just for the budget of 1996, but does that indicate that we are going to have it and it's going to be covered, 150 million [sentence as heard]? Thank you.*

[Looney] *In answer to your question, we will launch out of al-Azraq, but then will fly to the border with Saudi Arabia. We will fly into Saudi, and then from there well within the country of Saudi Arabia, well within*

their military operating areas, as well as we will refuel and then participate in the operation Southern Watch mission.

[Beecroft] To answer your second question, I think there's some confusion as far as financing the F-16's is concerned. The F-16's are going to be passed to Jordan in the terms of what is called a no-cost-loan. In other words, while it is on paper alone for the purposes of satisfying U.S. Congressional strictures, it will cost Jordan, the planes per se, will cost Jordan nothing. What we are talking about, and I am not sure [where] you got the figure of \$150 million, but what we are talking about basically, in terms of expenses, has to do with preparing and improving the facilities available in Jordan for sustaining the F-16's once they get here. And, as has already been mentioned by General Looney, some of what is being done in the context of the current operation will be of benefit to Jordan in that respect, but it is in fact up to the Government of Jordan to finance the support aspects of the planes once they get here. But the planes themselves will not cost Jordan anything.

[Al-Halabi] I am Jamal al-Halabi from the AP. When will the military training start?

[Al-'Ababinah] They began yesterday. All the U.S. aircraft arrived at their base yesterday. Extensive meetings are being held among the Jordanian and U.S. pilots to discuss the necessary planning for the joint sorties.

[Ukur] I am 'Iman 'Ukur from Jordan Television I'd like to ask General Looney: Is there any relation between these exercises and any intention for establishing a permanent American air base in Jordan?

[Looney] Absolutely no. We are here as a guest of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. As the general mentioned earlier, we have been coming here since 1981. This is just another opportunity to further our relationships, our training opportunities, and I think it's very opportune this time as they prepare to gain their own F-16 squadron that we were able to bring over F-16's and show them how we operate them, how we use, and also help in building the infrastructure to help support them once they arrive.

[Judah] Let me just put the lid on that once an for all. This is a temporary deployment, and the time frame has been set. It is from now until some time in June, maximum by the end of June. There is nothing on the cards as far as establishing a permanent American air base in Jordan. This is not on the cards.

[Correspondent] This question is directed to both generals. What exactly is the relationship between Eager Tiger and the training. I mean are they interrelated? Are they separate? Is one part of the other?

[Al-'Ababinah] Let me take the first part of it to start with. Eager Tiger is a separate exercise, but it coincides with these aircraft. No American aircraft, other than those which are already in Jordan, will participate in the Eager Tiger.

[Looney] Already the United States and Jordan have a very active exercise program. Probably the most active in terms of numbers with any Arab country in this part of the Arab world. So, this should not be seen as exceptional. This is part of an ongoing exercise program that's been lasting now for years.

[Al-'Ababinah] And we are talking a minimum of six to eight exercises carried out with the United States Forces...

[Correspondent, interrupting] On an annual basis?

[Al-'Ababinah] Yes, on an annual basis. We are talking about the Air Force, with the Navy, and with the Marines and all the elements of the U.S. forces.

[Awwad] I am Jasir 'Awwad from AL-NAJM AL-'ARABI newspaper. Sir: If the air flights over southern Iraq are for training purposes and aim to further qualify the Jordanian pilots, cannot such exercises take place in our dear Jordan? And if, as you say, planes cannot enter from Jordan, cannot exercises take place in the United States or Turkey, for example?

[Judah] Dear brother, this matter...

[Awwad, interrupting] (?Is this) a political, not a technical answer?

[Judah, interrupting] Excuse me sir, I want to answer you. We have answered this before. The exercises will not take place over Iraq. They will take place on the soil of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and in its airspace. The other side of the mission of the U.S. air forces in Jordan is to carry out flights over Iraq. The flights are not part of the exercises. Exercises are one thing and air flights are another.

[Al-'Ababinah] The Jordanian pilots will not participate in...

[Judah, interrupting] Jordanian pilots will not take part in flights over Iraq because this is not part of the joint exercises.

[Looney] Occasionally, we will be asked by the command in Saudi Arabia — the Americans or the joint task force there — to send a mission to support Southern Watch, and we will do that. But that is not primarily what we are here to do, and that is certainly not what the majority of the missions that we will fly would be involved in.

[Al-Khalidi] I am Sulayman al-Khalidi of REUTER. This is a question directed to Gen. Looney. How many sorties will be actually operated to the southern Iraq and the target for over the period of two and a half months? Another question on clarifying whether this is a UN mandated mission or whether in fact it's a Western enforced no-fly zone over southern Iraq?

[Looney] First, let me answer your second question first. Absolutely the justification for all the flying over southern Iraq is through the United Nations' resolutions. And as I said, it is a coalition of governments that participate in this and provide resources, and we are just one of the many participants. The second part is really an unknown. To give you an idea of how many the total number of missions we will fly over southern Iraq between now and when we leave is hard to say. But I would anticipate that you will find when we add up the total number of missions that we fly with the deployed force that is at al-Azraq, that a minority of them will be ones that will be flown over southern Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. The majority will be flown either amongst ourselves, the deployed members of the Airpower Expeditionary Force, or with the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

[Correspondent] Has not the deployment in Jordan — the U.S. deployment in Jordan — got any relation with the absence of the U.S. carriers in Gulf.

[Looney] No it does not. This was, as I said earlier, an opportunity for us, first, to practice our ability to deploy and do it in a rapid manner, and then, second, an opportunity to work with the Royal Jordanian Air Force. The carrier is in the Gulf, and it is not in response to that whatsoever.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] U.S. planes carrying out their sorties through the Jordanian territory for technical reasons when there is a need to do so. There were statements, when the talk about military exercises first started, that other states will participate in these maneuvers or exercises. What happened?

[Al-'Ababinah] There is no technical reason why the U.S. planes should enter the Iraqi airspace through the Jordanian airspace. Also, I stress once again, that no other air force in the region will participate in these joint exercises.

[Judah] Fine. I would like to wrap it up now and conclude by saying that the whole reason why we had this press conference is to give you an opportunity to ask your questions so that you can all be clear about what is going on in the next two months. I urge you not — some of our colleagues who asked, what we might label as, tricky questions — I urge you not to add one and one and

come up with 17. These are joint training missions that have been scheduled previously. And, they coincide with the presence of the Airpower Expeditionary Force here in Jordan which will be conducting air sorties as part of Operation Southern Watch in southern Iraq. Nothing more, nothing less. We will be holding another press conference when the deployment terminates in June.

Jordan: Columnist Criticizes Media Campaigns on U.S. Planes

JN1304160796 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
13 Apr 96 p 22

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "We Will Not Believe Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A popular proverb says: No one can claim to be better than others. Fayruz [a popular Lebanese singer] gave this proverb more meaning when she said: Do not cry out, there is no one out there.

I recalled these words as I followed reports on the arrival of the U.S. planes at Jordanian bases to carry out sorties over Iraq. These reports came with other reports on the Ultimate Resolve maneuvers in Kuwait in which U.S. and UK forces will participate with Syrian, Egyptian, and other Arab and foreign forces.

Of course, the aim of all this U.S. military mobilization is not to bring about just peace that restores to the Arabs their Jerusalem and land. Rather, it is meant to encircle Iraq just as a bracelet encircles a wrist. O poor Iraq and Jerusalem, do not cry out, because there is no one out there.

After all this, we will not be surprised if the media campaigns against Jordan on the arrival of the U.S. planes continue. Those who launch such campaigns do so because they think that the Gulf is far away, and that public opinion in their country will not allow their armies to take part in the U.S. Ultimate Resolve maneuvers on the Iraqi borders.

We in Jordan can speak out and state our opinion on the presence of U.S. planes in Jordan. However, the others want us to believe that their sins are sheer righteousness. We will not believe them, even if their media campaigns reach the seventh skies with slogans of banning Israeli nuclear activity or confronting new Israeli alliances with the United States and Turkey. We will not believe them because it is they who brought the nation to this situation, and it is they who issued religious rulings legalizing the recourse to foreign forces.

We will not believe them, because the fact that they participated in the Ultimate Resolve maneuvers on the Iraqi border refutes all they say and reveals their real

intentions. There is only one way to accomplish what they advertise in their media campaigns on defending national and pan-Arab security. If they are sincere, why do they not follow that path?

Pan-Arab security can be achieved through two ways only: First, by setting the Arab League free and infusing in it a political will to resolve inter-Arab differences and to open the door for reconciliation. Second, by calling for an Arab summit to discuss pan-Arab security with the participation of all, including Iraq and Sudan.

Anything else is merely slogans, beating of drums, and empty talk to win better positions and roles, or to fight over these roles and positions within the circle of U.S. influence. This being the case, then no one can claim to be better than others. The Arab nation can differentiate right from wrong and can no longer be deceived.

Lebanon: Buwayz Interviewed on U.S. 'Initiative,' 1993 Agreement*NC1604163796 London MBC Television in Arabic
1509 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Jad al-Akhawi on 16 April; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] There have been U.S. efforts over the past few days to reach a cease-fire and halt the military operations. This initiative was manifested today in a plan on which the U.S. ambassador briefed me a short while ago. This plan is now under discussion by the Lebanese authorities. Of course, the aim is to crystallize the 1993 agreement that laid down or rather sought to lay down a framework for resistance operations and Israeli reprisals. The agreement stipulated at the time that Israel refrain from attacking civilian targets in exchange for the resistance refraining from firing rockets at northern Israel. In other words, it limited the fighting to Lebanese territories occupied by Israel, and not exceeding these territories.

[Al-Akhawi] Is there any intention on the part of Israel to withdrew? The agreement says that Israel intends to pull out from the territories it is occupying...

[Buwayz, interrupting] No. Unfortunately the plan does not include any indication about an Israeli withdrawal. Naturally, had it contained a clear signal such as this, the plan would have been a positive one. To date, in both its negotiations with the Lebanese side in Washington and in statements by its officials, Israel has not committed itself to any kind of a withdrawal and here lies the problem.

Lebanon: Buwayz Remarks on U.S. Plan, Russian Offer, Kuwaiti Aid*NC1604180396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] After meeting U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said he received a U.S. plan proceeding from the so-called July agreement to secure a cease-fire. He added that the plan needs to be examined by the Lebanese Government and that he had briefed the president on its contents.

Buwayz said: We asked the U.S. ambassador to clarify some points of the proposal, so as we can form a view. We are waiting for U.S. clarifications before adopting a stand. He noted that this agreement does not call for halting the resistance and that it cannot end this legitimate resistance.

Let us listen to Minister Buwayz:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] Obviously, the United States has over the past few days been seeking a formula to halt the Israeli aggressions and operations in Lebanese territories in general.

Today, we received from the U.S. ambassador a U.S. plan, proceeding from the so-called July agreement, to reach a cease-fire. So to summarize the situation, we are waiting for U.S. clarifications on points of the plan and, in light of that, we will adopt a stand toward this proposal.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does the agreement call for a halt to Hizballah's activities and disarming it?

[Buwayz] I said that this agreement proceeds from the premise of the July agreement. The July agreement does not stipulate halting the resistance. It sought to organize or devise a framework for the resistance action. When we say that this agreement proceeds from the July understanding, this means that it heads in the same direction. Therefore, certainly this agreement cannot lessen or abolish the legitimate right to resistance.

Of course [word indistinct] details about carrying out this action. When these details are clarified, we will form our view on the (?issue). [end recording]

Shortly after 1815, President Ilyas al-Hirawi met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. They were joined by the foreign minister at 1830.

Ambassador Jones contacted Minister Buwayz this evening, asking whether a Lebanese reply to the U.S. draft solution which he had delivered to Buwayz was ready. The answer was that the Lebanese side is still examining the proposal.

Minister Buwayz received two telephone calls from the Qatari foreign minister and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov. Minister Primakov offered Russia's mediation to resolve the crisis and reach a cease-fire.

As regards aid, Kuwait announced today an air bridge with Lebanon to transport emergency aid. A Kuwaiti plane loaded with aid consisting of medicine, food, and blankets arrived at Beirut Airport this afternoon. Minister Marwan Hamadah and Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari were on hand at Beirut Airport to receive the aircraft. The minister of industry and oil reassured that fuel is secure and that there is no fear of a shortage. He said diesel and gasoline are enough for at least one month.

Lebanon: Radio Cites Points of U.S. Plan for Cease-Fire

*NC1604194196 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today received from U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Richard Jones a U.S. cease-fire plan. The plan is based on the July understanding. Minister Buwayz said later that some point in the plan need to be modified. Given the sensitivity of the issue, he said, the points of the plan need to be given in-depth discussion.

It has been learned that the U.S. offer contains the following points: Stopping the military action, the cycle of violence, and the katyusha rocket attacks against northern Israel and the occupied border strip; Restricting Hizballah; Deploying the Lebanese Army in some areas in the south in a way that secures calm; and providing a written Syrian guarantee for the implementation of this agreement. When security is maintained, Israel will consider the possibility of withdrawing from the Lebanese territory over an unspecified period of time.

Lebanon: Details of U.S. Draft Initiative To Stop Fighting Given

*NC1704100096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0925 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago Israeli officials revealed the text of the draft agreement proposed by the United States to stop Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Hizballah operations on northern Israel. The Israeli officials say the draft agreement has been delivered to the concerned sides, that is, to Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. The Hebrew state places the condition that Syria sign the document to guarantee its implementation. The agreement, which consists of seven points, stipulates the following: 1. Hizballah should stop attacks on northern Israel. 2. Israel should stop attacking civilian areas north of the area it occupies in Lebanon. 3. Hizballah should stop any activities in the civilian areas north of the occupied area. 4. An international mechanism should be formulated to guarantee implementation of the agreement and supervision of it. 5. If Hizballah attacks towns in northern Israel, Israel is entitled to carry out operations on Hizballah targets in Lebanon. 6. Hizballah should not carry out operations against the Israeli soldiers in the south. 7. Israel should pledge to hold negotiations regarding its withdrawal from the south.

On the last point, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres noted that Israel will not start thinking about withdrawal until nine months of peace and quiet along the border have passed following the signing of the document.

In another security development the towns of Ma'rub and Arzun in Tyre are still coming under Israeli artillery shelling, which started at 1215 local [0915 GMT].

Lebanon: Hizballah Comments on U.S. Plan, Warns Israelis To Leave

*NC1704101996 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1007 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a new development a short time ago AFP cited a responsible Hizballah official saying that Hizballah rejects the U.S. plan to establish a cease-fire in Lebanon. He described the plan as the dictation of Israeli conditions. In another development Hizballah radio [not further identified; Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed remains unheard at Nicosia] broadcast threats in Hebrew and English to residents of northern Israel to evacuate their settlements because Hizballah will continue shelling them with Katyushas. In a statement Hizballah renewed its determination to shell all military and civilian installations in northern Israel. It warned all those in the target area to suffer the consequences of staying there.

Lebanon: Al-Hirawi, Birri, Buwayz Discuss U.S. Proposal

*NC1604170896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting involving President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker Nabih Birri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at the B'abda Republican Palace ended a short time ago. During the meeting they discussed the U.S. proposal on south Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Buwayz left the B'abda Palace for Beirut Airport to receive French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette. Minister Buwayz explained that Lebanon has some remarks regarding the U.S. proposal. He noted that he received a telephone call from the Russian foreign minister.

Lebanon: French Foreign Minister Arrives in Beirut

*LD1604175596 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 1700 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Herve de Charette, the head of French diplomacy, is pursuing a mission he knew to be impossible — if there is to be cease-fire, it will come from the United States and nowhere else. Nonetheless, de Charette was in Jerusalem yesterday, in Damascus this morning, and at this moment he is in Beirut. Frederic Carbonne reports:

[Carbonne] Herve de Charette came to Beirut for the first time two years ago as minister of housing, and that was to talk about the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Tonight it is in a country that s once again being bombed, and a city once again without electricity to which the number one of French diplomacy has arrived. His Middle East shuttle has not, for the time being, been accompanied by any respite in the military operation. The Israelis had warned him that it was too early to envisage a cease-fire. Early this afternoon, shells were fired very close to the airport in the Muslim quarter where the minister has just arrived, and a major Hizballah center was reportedly destroyed.

The aims of the visit are limited: on the French side they are talking only of a fact-finding visit. On the Lebanese side there is the same caution: let us start by giving Herve de Charette modest objectives, and we will see what happens next — those were the words of the Lebanese foreign minister.

The talks will therefore be long ones, as they were in Damascus in Syria. They will last all evening and there may be more talks in the morning.

Lebanon: French Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets With al-Hirawi

*NC1604182096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1800 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrived at the B'abda Republican Palace at 2040 [1740 GMT], accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. A meeting involving President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker Nabih Birri, and ministers Buwayz and de Charette was immediately held. Discussion is focused on the means to end the volatile situation in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Returns, Joins Meeting With de Charette

*NC1604202196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri on one side and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on the other continues in B'abda Palace. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz is attending the meeting. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri joined the meeting at 2210, immediately after his arrival in Beirut from Damascus. He ended a tour that took him to Cairo, Paris, Fes, and Jeddah.

Lebanon: French Foreign Minister Ends Talks, To Leave for Tel Aviv

*NC1604211996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2050 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a new report from the news desk: The B'abda Palace meeting involving President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette ended a short time ago. The French foreign minister arrived in Beirut from Damascus earlier in the day. The meeting lasted for two and a half hours. After the meeting, the French minister made a statement but refused to answer journalists' questions.

The most important thing de Charette said is that he is pursuing his mission at the instruction of French President Jacques Chirac to put an end to violence in Lebanon. He said he visited Beirut after visiting Tel Aviv and Damascus. He said the French president asked him to examine the damage inflicted on the al-Jumhur and Bsalim electricity substations and to repair them as soon as possible. He noted that France sent food and medicine to Lebanon on Sunday and will send a second plane of relief aid on Thursday. On the political part of his mission, Minister de Charette said he is carrying an initiative which he presented to the Lebanese officials and will convey the Lebanese reply to Tel Aviv tomorrow. He did not disclose the details of the French initiative.

Minister de Charette arrived in Beirut this evening. He said upon arrival that his tour, which took him to Tel Aviv and Damascus, seeks to put an end to the crisis in Lebanon, which will probably take a long time. He said he listened to many ideas in Israel and Damascus and that he will listen to Lebanon's views. He stressed that France will offer ideas and proposals in the next hours and days.

Lebanon: French Foreign Minister Ready With Peace Proposals

*LD1704085396 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 0600 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shelling is continuing between Israel and Shiite Hizballah extremists. The latter launched two salvos of rockets on northern Israel last night. As for the Israeli Air Force, it is still shelling southern Lebanon, the Shiite suburbs of Beirut, and the Bika' plain. The toll has risen: Nearly 40 people have died and 170 have been injured, mainly civilians.

Diplomatic efforts are trying to gain the upper hand. The Americans have entered the arena with a cease-fire proposal submitted to Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

The French foreign minister is continuing his efforts to reach the same goal. France has taken humanitarian measures and is about to make specific proposals to end the fighting.

Herve de Charette's statement was recorded by Frederic Carbonne:

[Begin recording] [de Charette] France has already taken a number of initiatives and will continue to do so in order to ease the plight of the Lebanese people. There has already been a humanitarian flight on Sunday [14 April]. There will be another this Thursday. Tomorrow a specialized team will arrive to assess the damage suffered by the two power plants. France has pledged, in that the president of the republic has promised, that these two plants will be repaired as soon as possible and you will see that this will happen quite soon.

This situation should not last. It is a matter of urgency that we put an end to it. I have listened to, consulted with, and heard the leaders of the three countries and I have decided to put French proposals to these three countries which are intended to put an end to this crisis as soon as possible. We must be quick because this is a case of extreme urgency.

[Carbonne] Is this no longer a fact-finding mission?

[De Charette] It is a mission which started as a fact-finding one but, from the start, it was naturally bound to lead to a French initiative. [end recording]

Since his meetings with the Syrian and Lebanese presidents, Herve de Charette believes that things have made good progress. He has extended his Middle East tour and will visit Israel once again today.

As for the Americans, they have stated that Paris and Washington are cooperating in the context of the Lebanese crisis to put an end to the fighting.

The Israeli Government gave a warmer welcome to the U.S. initiative than to the French mission.

As for Europe, which disapproves of the fact that President Chirac is going it alone, it has dispatched the members of the European three-country party, that is, the foreign ministers of the country currently chairing the council of ministers and those of its predecessor and successor. They are the Spanish, Italian and Irish foreign ministers respectively.

Lebanon: Nasrallah Warns Against Plans Failing To Protect Civilians

NC1604214496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2100 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 16 Apr (MENA)—Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has

warned against accepting any proposals or initiatives that may lead to a new war in a year or so. He stressed that it is not possible to accept a logic that fails to protect Lebanese civilians.

In statements broadcast by Hizballah's al-Nur radio from an unknown location, Nasrallah said: There is a real need for guarantees to protect Lebanese civilians and for reliance on our allies in Syria and Iran.

He said military force will not guarantee the security of northern Israel, and that the only way to achieve peace is not to attack Lebanese civilians.

Nasrallah said Peres achieved nothing of the slogans he raised because the Israeli settlements saw no peace under the pressure of the Katyusha rockets, which targeted new settlements.

Nasrallah stressed that time is not in Israel's favor, because he [as received] will not be able to stand the pressure on him. He said Peres cannot protect the settlements.

In another development, Hizballah sources stressed that the scores of Katyusha rockets fired this morning hit 17 Israeli settlements, which expanded the fire line to involve the entire Israeli-Lebanese border.

Lebanon: Hizballah 'Source' Says Surprise Awaits Israel

NC1604151796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has asserted that the surprise awaiting Israeli prime minister will be one of a heavy caliber, which might, according to a Hizballah official, cause him to lose his mind.

The Guidance Directorate of the Army Command issued a communique. It said Sergeant Ibrahim Farid al-Nashis and Private John Tanyus Abu-'Assaf were martyred in the shelling of al-Bazuriyah town in the Sidon province. It also reported a series of Israeli aggressions of shelling and raids.

[In a similar Beirut-dated report, Paris AFP in English at 1416 GMT on 16 April adds:

["The Iranian-backed Hizballah said it had fired rockets at 14 towns in northern Israel on Tuesday [16 April] and warned the Jewish state it was preparing 'a big surprise'.

["The Islamic Resistance armed wing of Hizballah fired several Katyusha rockets at 14 'settlements,' including Qiryat Shemona, in response to Israeli attacks against Lebanese civilians, it said in a statement.

[Israeli military officials said four Katyusha rockets struck northern Israel on Tuesday, slightly injuring a woman.

["We warn (Israeli prime minister) Shim'on Peres that he will have a big surprise that will make the enemy lose its head," said the statement on Hizballah radio.]

Lebanon: Hizballah Announces Rocket Attacks

NC1704084396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0823 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has said in a statement that it fired Katyusha rockets at Zefat, 15 km from the Lebanese border, at 0100 today. Hizballah fired six salvos of rockets, three of which landed in the Galilee Panhandle.

At 0950 the resistance fired a new salvo of rockets at the Israeli settlement of (Milan Barukh).

Lebanon: 'Resistance' Fires Katyusha Rockets at Northern Israel

NC1704093596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report just in from the newsdesk, the resistance has fired another volley of Katyusha rockets at northern occupied Palestine.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Discusses Solution to Conflict

BR1604133696 Paris LE MONDE in French
16 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Mouna Naim on 14 April; place not given: "Rafiq al-Hariri Calls For a Cease-Fire Between Hizballah and Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Naim] Did you put any specific demands to Mr. Chirac?

[Al-Hariri] I asked him to ensure that France uses its prestige to secure a cease-fire. In my opinion the way in which Israel is behaving will not lead anywhere. The Israelis have tried to adopt a tough stance since 1978 — without results. In the long term the solution is for Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory. Then Lebanon would be responsible for its own security in that part of its territory bordering on Israel. The Israelis are now asking us to disarm Hizballah because it is bothering them, while they themselves are continuing to occupy our territory. This is similar to having asked de Gaulle to disarm the [French] resistance.

[Naim] Before calling upon France for help, did you approach the United States?

[Al-Hariri] The attitude adopted by the United States is clear. It supports everything that Israel does. I had a conversation on this subject with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon and the response was this: Make sure that no more Katyusha rockets are fired. That being the case, the response of the Israelis is disproportionate to the actions undertaken by the [Lebanese] resistance. The Israelis are really overdoing it for electoral reasons. And the bombardment of (the power station in) Jamhur shows that they want to destroy Lebanon's infrastructure at a time when this country has started reconstructing itself, practically by the sweat of its brow, because it has not qualified for the economic assistance promised, say, to Bosnia. There is not any Hizballah presence in Jamhur, any more than there is in Tyre.

[Naim] So what is the [Israelis'] objective?

[Al-Hariri] They want to put pressure on us to disarm Hizballah. Which we shall not do. I want to be clear and practical: If Hizballah is posing a problem, then the solution does not lie in resorting to force. For nearly 20 years now Israel has had a chance to see that this is not the right approach. So let us try something else. The Lebanese state exists today and has an Army. The Lebanese people have come through a war and now want to live in peace. If Israel withdrew (from southern Lebanon), we would take care of the security on our borders. If Hizballah does not give way, we will force it to do so. No longer will there be any reason to resist the occupation.

I would remind you that Hizballah is opposed to the government. Their deputies belong to the opposition. So I am not seeking to defend them, but we can do nothing today because in the eyes of the population we would pass as traitors.

[Naim] But Israel will not withdraw from southern Lebanon from one day to the next!

[Al-Hariri] There is an unofficial agreement that was concluded in 1993 (with the help of U.S. mediation) which has been respected neither by Israel nor by Hizballah. We must return to this agreement: There is no other solution, it being understood that the definitive settlement would be for Israeli forces to withdraw from Lebanon.

[Naim] Do Lebanon and Syria have the means to force Hizballah to comply with this agreement?

[Al-Hariri] This agreement is an implicit recognition (by Israel) that a (Lebanese) resistance will exist as long as the occupation continues, the condition being that neither party hits the respective civilian populations. There have been abuses of this on both sides. Israel and Hizballah will have to make sure they respect this

agreement. Each side (including the Lebanese state) must endeavor to ensure that it is respected.

[Naim] Have you asked Syria and Iran to use their influence on Hizballah?

[Al-Hariri] As a rule I do not discuss questions relating to Lebanon with the Iranians. That is my position. If the Syrians want to do so, that is their business. We have asked the Syrian state (to use its influence over Hizballah) and — as far as I am aware — it will do so if Israel respects the agreement.

[Naim] Since 1991 Syria and Lebanon have been linked by a treaty under the terms of which the two countries would come to each other's aid if either sides' security is threatened. Why are the Syrians not responding?

[Al-Hariri] In saying that you are suggesting that there would have to be all-out war between Lebanon and Syria on the one hand and Israel on the other. Like the Lebanese Army, the Syrian troops (deployed in Lebanon) have fired back. But there is a gradation in the hostilities. Nobody has anything to gain by embarking on a real war, and Israel shares this view. Despite the gravity of the current situation, we cannot drag the region into war. Lebanon has never asked Syria for more than it has asked of its own Army. We know that the Lebanese troops are no match for the Israeli army. We have never said that Israel was a weak nation. On the contrary, its army is capable of destroying our country and casting its population out onto the streets. Moreover, that is what we are witnessing today, with between 300,000 and 400,000 displaced persons.

[Naim] Do you intend to ask other countries to intervene?

[Al-Hariri] (On Sunday, [14 April]) I already met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and (on Monday) I shall visit King Hassan II of Morocco before traveling on to Saudi Arabia and then Kuwait. Israel must know that it does not enjoy total impunity and that Lebanon has not been abandoned to its fate.

Lebanon: Birri, Buwayz Say No Results So Far From Diplomatic Work

NC1604220096 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
2132 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] After the meeting in B'abda, Speaker Birri said: Contacts are continuing and there are no results so far because the Israeli conditions are impossible [ta'jiziyah]. Israel is trying to pressure us by cutting off all humanitarian resources, including food and roads. It believes this will bring the Lebanese to their knees, but of course this is out of the question.

Referring to Lebanon's contacts with the outside world, he said Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will leave for Britain tomorrow to meet with British Prime Minister John Major. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz will attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo tomorrow.

For his part, Minister Buwayz said a political solution will not happen in the next hours. He said there are no French and American plans, but international interest in stopping the deterioration. This is the main thing, he said. He added: Lebanon deals with reality and views the United States as a very influential force in international policy.

Lebanon: Foreign Minister Buwayz Leaves for Cairo

NC1704054096 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0516 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just been informed that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Beirut for Cairo five minutes ago on board Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's private jet. Minister Buwayz will lead Lebanon's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers' council meetings, slated to be held in Cairo today upon Lebanon's request. The council will discuss the Israeli aggression and its impact on Lebanon.

Lebanon: Defense Minister Stresses Right To Resist Occupation

NC1704055896 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2305 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated his country's right to resist the Israeli occupation in south Lebanon.

In an exclusive interview to be published in AHARAM HEBDO tomorrow Dallul described Israel's security policy as proceeding from the wrong bases. He said the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon has destroyed its security and caused it grave losses.

Lebanon: Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for London

NC1704061796 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0605 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In line with his contacts to end the Israeli aggression, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for London today. He will hold talks with British officials.

Lebanon: Army Command Issues Statement on Israeli Attacks*NC1704102696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0950 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of the Lebanese Army on 17 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the seventh day running the Israeli enemy is continuing its ground and air attacks on civilians in the south and Western al-Biq'a'. The Israeli enemy has stepped up its threats in an attempt to empty the area of people. Enemy warships continue to besiege the Lebanese coast.

Air raids continued all night last night and intensified this morning. The following villages and towns were targeted by the Israeli air raids: Tyre, Kafra, Jwayya, Sribbin, al-'Izziyah, Shaqra, al-Jumayjimah, Wadi al-Qaysiyah, al-Mansurah, Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, al-Maryamiyah, Buyut al-Siyyad, Armadiyah, Sahl al-Qulaylah, Siddiqin, Asma'iyah, Majdal Zun, Qana, al-M'alliyah, Burj Qalawayah, al-Nabatiyah, Jibshit, and al-Sharqiyah. Two people were hurt when their motorcycle was hit by a rocket on the al-Malikiyah road.

The villages and towns were also subjected to artillery bombardment of various calibers. The bombardment was also directed at the townships of Haruf, Tibnin, Kfur, 'Ayn Qana, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, 'Arab Salim, Shukin, 'Atshit, (Surayfah), Habbush, al-Sultaniyah, and al-Tawwanah.

The army command urged citizens not to go near the targeted areas, where there are unexploded bombs. The Lebanese Army's engineering teams are currently working to defuse them.

Lebanon: Army Statement on Raids, Casualties, Travel Advisory*NC1604170096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1625 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[Statement by the Lebanese Army's Guidance Directorate on 16 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli enemy bombard the populated areas and targeted civilians throughout the afternoon. Three citizens were martyred and 13 were wounded. The army lost two martyrs, who fell this morning.

Israeli aircraft raided Hayy al-Sullam, al-Raml al-'Ali, the area surrounding the Faculty of Science in the Southern Suburb, the villages of 'Ayn B'al, Tibnin, Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, (al- Suwwani), Tulin, Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Dayr Ntar, al-Marwaniyah, Zifta al-Sharqiyah, Timnin al-Tahta, and the area of al-Musaylih, where the

bombardment cut off the main road between al-Zahrani and al- Nabatiyah. Troops are working to reopen the road.

The artillery bombardment included al-Nabatiyah, ('Atba), Haruf, Zibdin, Jibshit, al-Kufur, Mayfadun, Shukin, Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al- Sharqiyah and al-Gharbiyah, ('Atshit), and al-Duwayr.

Casualties were as follows: Two martyrs and four wounded in al- Jumayjimah, one martyr and seven wounded in Timnin al-Tahta, and two wounded in Hayy al-Sullam.

The army command has called on citizens, for their own safety, to travel only if necessary in the targeted areas.

Lebanon: Communique Notes Israel's Decision To Resume Operations*NC1704045996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South
in Arabic 0425 GMT 17 Apr 96*

["Communique No. 1 for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After Katyushas fell continuously on Israel yesterday, the Israeli army will today resume its operations to strike Hizballah terrorists wherever they may hide. The Israeli army's arms are long and its pulse strong. The terrorists will not find a place to hide nor will they be fortified anywhere.

The Israeli army restates that it has no intention to strike civilians in Lebanon but it will operate against Hizballah, which is carrying out terrorist actions. You are requested to keep away from the terrorists and keep them away from you.

If there is no calm in Qiryat Shemona and Marj 'Uyun, there will be no calm in Sidon or Beirut. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Communique Says Israeli Operations To Start '0730 GMT'*NC1704055196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South
in Arabic 0534 GMT 17 Apr 96*

["Communique No. 2 for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli army's operations against Hizballah militia will commence at 1030 [0730 GMT] today, targeting al-Nabatiyah and its environs. The Israeli Defense Forces again warn residents of this region that anyone failing to leave the region will expose himself to danger. Those who have not yet left their homes must leave them as soon as possible and head north. Anyone in the region after 1030 will be there at his own risk. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Communiqué Urges Government To Stop Hizballah Activity

NC1704074396 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic* 0658 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Communiqué No. 3 for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the Lebanese Government: It is time to consider the situation that has been prompted by your [word indistinct] policy of indifference to the fate of the Lebanese citizen.

You yourselves gave the snake, the so-called Hizballah, the chance to grow and move among you, biting the hands of its friends and those that fed it. Still you remain silent. You must learn that you cannot shirk your responsibility toward Hizballah's activities or toward the removal of this cancer from your body.

The calm and security of the Lebanese citizen are your responsibility. If Hizballah's terrorism and terrorist operations against Marj 'Uyun and Qiryat Shermona do not stop, calm will not prevail in Tyre, Sidon, Ba'labakk, and Beirut.

Lebanon: Residents Asked To Leave Villages by 0900 GMT

NC1704073396 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic* 0703 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Communiqué No. 4 for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of its operations against Hizballah militia the Israeli army will carry out operations against the villages and towns of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, al-'Abbasiyah, Ma'rubb, (Jurayya), and Ma'rakah. Residents of these villages and their environs should leave and head north as soon as possible. Anyone in the region after 1200 [0900 GMT] will expose himself to the danger of death. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Israeli Army To Resume al-Nabatiyah Operations 1200 GMT

NC1704105196 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic* 1040 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Communiqué No. 5 for today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli army has halted its operations in the al-Nabatiyah area. It will resume operations at 1500 [1200 GMT] today. Those remaining in the area should leave and head north. Anyone in the region after 1500 will expose himself to danger at his own risk. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes' Resumption of Attacks Reported

NC1704050996 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 0445 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the newsdesk: The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent in Tyre has just told us that Israeli warplanes are currently flying over Tyre. Elsewhere, the Israeli occupation forces continue to bombard areas of the central sector.

The NNA correspondent in Tibnin reported that enemy warplanes staged an air raid on an area between al-Mu'alliyah and Sma'iyah. The enemy aircraft also raided the al-Qaysiyah valley between Majdal Silm and al-Suwwanah at 0700.

Lebanon: Israeli Raid Targets Empty Islamic Resistance Center

NC1604134096 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1328 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli raid that targeted the township of Timnin al-Tahta, in Central al-Biq'a', hit an empty center belonging to the Islamic Resistance.

The raid destroyed the building, damaged commercial shops, and wounded three persons.

Lebanon: Israeli Raids, Shelling, Katyusha Firing Reported

NC1604140196 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1318 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli military aircraft fired four rockets on the town of al-Musaylih shortly after 1530 [1230 GMT]. The rockets fell near the home of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri.

At 1430, Israeli helicopters raided the southern suburb of the capital near Beirut Airport and Hayy al-Sullam. The raid on Hayy al-Sullam killed a 2-year-old girl.

The Israeli bombardment this afternoon stretched to the towns of Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, and Mayfadun. The city of al-Nabatiyah also came under violent shelling shortly after 1430. The shelling covered al-Qusaybi, Shukin, Zibdin, 'Adshit, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] Spokesman Timor Goksel said three civilians were killed and 10 others wounded today as a result of Israeli shelling of a building where the remaining residents of a southern village sought refuge.

While Goksel said the building was hit during the shelling of al-Jumayjimah, Lebanese police confirmed

that the building was struck by three rockets fired by an Israeli fighter aircraft.

We are now on the line with the editors desk:

[Begin recording] One of the Israeli military aircraft that have been flying over Beirut and the Southern Suburb, and as far as al-Biq'a', raided and fired an air-to-ground missile on the Timnin Bridge in the area between Zahlah and Ba'labakk.

Meanwhile, Lebanese police confirmed that the neighborhood of the home of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri in the town of al-Musaylih came under an Israeli attack.

Israeli planes are now attacking the hills of Yatar. The city of al-Nabatiyah and its suburbs are coming under fierce shelling. Hizballah told us a short time ago that it fired two salvos of Katyusha rockets at the settlements of (Kafar Barin) and Goren. [end recording]

Lebanon: Raid Kills 1, Wounds 2; New Salvo of Katyusha's Fired

NC1604144496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1425 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk:

The raid against Timnin al-Tahta has led to the martyrdom of Sana' Nasir and the injury of 'Adil al-Masri and Wajdi al-Burji, who were both taken to Riyah hospital for treatment.

Haj Jamil Dirba', of the Batulai township, died this afternoon of a heart attack as a result of the bombardment of his township.

We have just received word that a new salvo of Katyushas was fired in the direction of occupied Palestine at 1715 [1415 GMT].

Meanwhile, Israeli aircraft are flying low altitude sorties over the south. Helicopters are flying over the western and central sectors [of the security strip].

Lebanon: Israeli Air Force Raids Hizballah Target in al-Biq'a'

TA1604150096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1452 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Air Force jet fighters raided a Hizballah regional headquarters in the al-Biq'a' Valley a short time ago. We would like to remind you that this Syrian-controlled area is located in eastern Lebanon and Hizballah holds large-scale logistics and training centers there. The pilots reported very good hits on the targets and completed their mission without sustaining any casualties.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources emphasized this afternoon that any katyusha attacks on the northern border would elicit an appropriate response by the IDF. The terrorists fired several salvos of katyushas at the northern settlements today, and the IDF's response came this afternoon when jet fighters bombed a Hizballah regional headquarters in al-Biq'a'.

Lebanon: Northern Israel, Area Around Birri's Home Targeted

NC1704050696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A new salvo of Katyusha rockets fell at dawn today on Upper Galilee causing no injuries, according to Israeli radio this morning. Israeli attacks receded during the night after large-scale operations that extended from the south all the way to the Southern Suburb passing through the al-Biq'a' valley. According to initial estimates, the attacks claimed five martyrs and wounded 15.

During the sixth day of attacks on Lebanon, Hizballah fired seven Katyusha salvos targeting nine new Israeli settlements. According to Israeli information five people were hurt. Israeli warplanes carried out raids on the south, al-Biq'a', and the Southern Suburb. In one sortie the warplanes targeted the area around Nabih Birri's house in al-Musaylih. The shelling left huge craters in the Sidon-Tyre road, cutting off the road until Army units could fill the holes to enable cars to pass.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Attack Jibal al-Butm, Kafra

NC1704060496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0553 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the newsdesk: The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent in Tyre reports that Israeli warplanes staged an air raid on Jibal al-Butm, destroying a house there at 0830. There are no immediate reports of casualties.

We have also learned that enemy aircraft raided Kafra, firing several missiles at the town.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Attack Central Sector Areas

NC1704062796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0618 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the newsdesk: The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the central sector has reported that enemy aircraft raided Majdal Silm and Wadi al-Qaysiyah at 0915 today. At 0910 Israeli warplanes raided the road between Bra'shit

and Shaqra. Scores of shells are now falling on Bra'shit from the Israeli occupation forces' positions opposite.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft Drop 'Concussion Bombs'

NC1704065196 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0613 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the newsdesk: The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent in the central sector reports that enemy aircraft raided the western part of Majdal Silm at 0900. The Israeli aircraft dropped three concussion bombs [sawarikh faraghiyah], causing shock waves over a 2-km radius. At 0905 enemy forces bombarded the road leading to Safad al-Battikh.

The NNA correspondent in Tibnin said a salvo of Katyusha rockets was fired at the Israeli settlements at 0900.

Lebanon: Israeli Air Raid, Shelling Reported

NC1704082096 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0758 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli enemy warplanes have raided the town of 'Abba. Al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, Jibshit, Haruf, and al-Qusaybah are coming under artillery fire. The militia radio [Voice of the South] announced that the deadline for al-Nabatiyah inhabitants to leave their homes was 1030 [0730 GMT]. Elsewhere a Lebanese Army relief convoy entered al-Nabatiyah to distribute aid to the steadfast kin there.

Lebanon: New Air Raid Reported Near UN Position in South

NC1704083496 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0818 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is just in from the news desk: Our correspondent told us three minutes ago that Israeli warplanes raided an area between 'Aytit and al-Bayyad near a checkpoint for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The bombing is still continuing. The UN forces gave signals to the Israeli warplanes that the position belongs to them.

Lebanon: 1 Killed, 4 Wounded in New Israeli Air Raids in South

NC1704091196 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0848 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a new report from the newsdesk: The town of Qana, in particular the area of 'Ayn al-Qissis, was targeted by five successive raids by enemy warplanes. Initial reports say one person was martyred and two wounded in the raids. They were taken to the headquarters of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon for treatment. A short time ago two people

were wounded in an air raid at the al-Sh'ayuyah-al-Sama'iyah crossroads. Six Katyusha rockets were fired at occupied Palestine. We have received word that the villages of Majdal Zun, al-Mansurah, and Qana and most of the villages in the central sector are now coming under fierce and concentrated large-caliber artillery shelling. The town of al-Sama'iyah south of Tyre is now being raided by enemy warplanes and Haddatha is coming under fierce and concentrated shelling.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Reports New Air Raids; Houses Destroyed

NC1704092896 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0906 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a new report from the newsdesk: The town of Kafra is coming under successive raids by enemy warplanes. There is also concentrated artillery shelling against Dayr Ntar. In Kafra, several houses were destroyed, among them the home of Mahmud 'Abd-al-Karim. We have also learned that four enemy helicopter gunships overflew the hills of al-Jabbur, Abi Rashid, and the surroundings of Maydun at 1150.

We learned moments ago that at 1205 there was a raid on al-'Izziyah and at 1200 Israeli warplanes raided Yatar firing four air-to-surface rockets at residential areas.

Lebanon: Al-Nabatiyah Raided; 3 Injured From Hizballah Ambulance Hit

NC1704110496 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1055 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes are raiding the central area of the main street in the city of al-Nabatiyah near the al-Husayni Club.

AFP, in an urgent report a short time ago, reported that three paramedics were wounded when Israeli helicopters targeted an ambulance belonging to Hizballah's health department. The three were riding the ambulance in a village in the south.

Lebanon: Radio Advises 700 Families To Leave al-Nabatiyah

NC1704112996 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic* 1105 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent has reported that at least 700 families are still in al-Nabatiyah and the surrounding areas. The Voice of the South advises these families and anyone remaining in al-Nabatiyah and its environs to use the opportunity of the halt in the Israeli army's activities until 1500 today. The families

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are asked to head north as soon as possible before operations resume in the area.

We are announcing this advice despite our knowing that several Hizballah terrorists are still operating in al-Nabatiyah and its environs, hiding behind civilians and their homes and using them as a protective umbrella for their terrorist actions.

Brothers in al-Nabatiyah, [Hizballah Secretary General] Hasan Nasrallah and his masters in Tehran are responsible for the entire situation. You should know that unless calm prevails in Marj 'Uyun and Qiryat Shemona there will be no calm in al-Nabatiyah.

Syria: Al-Asad Receives French Foreign Minister

JN1604155496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and the delegation accompanying him at 1615 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister 'Adnan 'Imran, and the French ambassador in Damascus.

Syria: Syrian, French Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

JN1604162496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A session of talks was held between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the French side led by Foreign Minister Herve de Charette at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Talks focused on the Israeli military escalation against Lebanon. Herve De Charette said that his talks with Foreign Minister al-Shar' today were extremely useful and constructive.

In a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, correspondent following the talks, de Charette added: We have not thus far completed the exchange of views, opinions, and ideas. Therefore, we must wait a little before making a final judgment on the results of these talks. However, we are working seriously and actively.

Syria: Al-Asad, French Foreign Minister Discuss Lebanon, Ties

JN1604183396 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and his delegation at 1615 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister's aide 'Adnan 'Imran, and the French ambassador in Damascus.

Minister de Charette conveyed a message to the president from French President Jacques Chirac on the current situation in Lebanon, as well as cooperation between France and Syria to deal with it. The president asked the French minister to convey a reply message, as well as his greetings and best wishes, to President Chirac, stressing the importance of cooperation between the two countries to help Lebanon overcome its difficult situation.

Talks centered on Israel's aggression on Lebanon, as well as efforts to put an end to it. The president said that Israel violated many agreements and that what is taking place is a new Israeli violation. The president added that Syria shares Lebanon's ordeal and bears the burden of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon's territory and people.

The president welcomed an effective French role in dealing with the current situation in Lebanon.

The French minister said that France is concerned about the Lebanese situation and is trying to end it. He added that France's moves will be determined by the outcome of talks during his current tour. He stressed the importance of Syria's role in the region.

Syria: France's de Charette Confirms French 'Initiative,' Departs

JN1604190096 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Apr 96

[News Conference by French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette with unidentified correspondents; place and date not given—recorded; in French with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette left Damascus this evening. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the French ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

De Charette made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] [de Charette] First, I would like to say that I am very grateful to the Syrian authorities for receiving me at such short notice. We held lengthy discussions with President Hafiz al-Asad. I believe that this mission is useful, as it really appears. We would firmly like to extend French assistance to help establish peace and security in this part in the world. I have in mind the tragic situation of the civilian population. They must be enabled to return to their homes. This afternoon, we exchanged many ideas. I believe that we have achieved progress in this regard.

[Correspondent] Is there no French initiative, as the Americans are saying?

[De Charette] What am I doing here if there is no French initiative? I am in the middle of the initiative. Be sure that I will continue. The links I have with Lebanon are close enough and our relations with Israeli and Syria are strong enough. We have many friends in this region. All that is strong enough to make France able to contribute to the restoration of peace.

[Correspondent] Do the Israelis approve this French initiative?

[De Charette] So far, I have been listening. I made it clear that there is a specific French initiative that will be presented.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister: The Americans have just proposed a cease-fire on the basis of the 1993 agreement?

[De Charette] This is an excellent idea. [end recording]

Syria: Radio Cites Faris Buwayz' Remarks on U.S. Initiative

JN1604210896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [words indistinct] Al-Hariri explained that he had received the U.S. offer from the U.S. consul in Jeddah. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the U.S. cease-fire initiative, which he received today through U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Jones needs to be discussed by the Lebanese authorities.

At a news conference, Buwayz said that he had asked Ambassador Jones for clarifications about some points in the U.S. cease-fire initiative. Buwayz stressed adherence to resistance as a legitimate right until the end of the occupation. He pointed out that Lebanon requested the UN Security Council to remain in permanent session as long the Israeli aggression continues and as the Council has not yet finished its discussion of the Lebanese complaint. He added that what happened was a session for discussion and that the discussion was postponed without the Security Council adopting any decision or final position.

Syria: Al-Shar', Iran's Khonsari Discuss 'Israeli Aggression'

JN1704063896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night received Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, adviser to the Iranian foreign minister and head of Middle East Department in the Iranian Foreign ministry. Attending the meeting were Assistant Foreign Minister Raslan 'Allush, and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the region and the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Syria: Ba'th Party Official—Israeli Terrorism Unprecedented

JN1704074696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In its editorial today under the headline "On the Golden Jubilee of the Evacuation Day, the Lessons and Meanings of Evacuation," by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The meanings of evacuation are of a special importance at this stage while our people are continuing their struggle under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad for the liberation of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories, and for restoring Arab rights. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar says: The meanings of evacuation are of a special importance in our pan-Arab life these days, during which the nation is facing difficult challenges and the Lebanese people are facing a brutal Israeli aggression and terrorism which is unprecedented in the world and throughout history. In their confrontation of this aggression, the Lebanese people and their heroic nationalist resistance are recording a new chapter in the book of persistent and escalating struggle for independence, the liberation of the south, and the restoration of the usurped rights.

Concluding, Comrade al-Ahmar says: Israel should know that its actions and practices will eventually be to no avail, for these practices failed in the past, and they will fail now and in the future. There will eventually be no choice other than accepting the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Lebanon, with all its citizens, along with Syria, will not compromise on its right and land, and will not submit to what the Israeli aggressors want. It is determined to liberate its land, to safeguard its territorial integrity, and to exercise sovereignty over its land. This is a natural right for the Lebanese people. No one can argue about or compromise on this right.

Syria: TISHRIN Highlights Relations With Lebanon

JN1704082996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary under the headline "Bolstering Fraternal Lebanon's Steadfastness," the newspaper TISHRIN highlights relations between Syria and Lebanon which were baptized by blood, sacrifices, and brotherhood.

TISHRIN says: Syria has always supported Lebanon, its people, government, and institutions in confronting the treacherous Israeli aggression. The bond between Lebanon and Syria is stronger than all schemes against Arab land and pan-Arab will, and stronger than the Israeli war machine because Lebanon and Syria are one people in two states.

TISHRIN adds: By supporting Lebanon under the difficult circumstances, Syria embodies a pioneering fraternal and pan-Arab stand, and expresses our great Arab people's aspirations for supporting the fraternal Lebanese people.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, is faithful to its principles and pan-Arab objectives. Syria has demonstrated in practical ways its fraternal relations with Lebanon because support for a brother is support for right, justice, and the laws of international legitimacy, all of which call for ending the Israeli occupation aggression.

Syria: Radio Criticizes U.S. 'Green Light,' 'Total Bias' Toward Israel

JN1604165796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1158 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli aggression on Lebanon continues with greater brutality and ferocity. The racist Zionists used all types of ground, air, and naval weapons as well as vacuum bombs in their attacks.

Innocent civilians, particularly children, women, and old people, were the main victims. The aggressors poured all their wrath on houses, buildings, power stations, hospitals, and schools in an exposed attempt to destroy the infrastructure of the Lebanese economy.

By force, terrorism, iron, and fire, Israel has vacated the southern Lebanese cities, villages, and townships of their residents. The number of displaced persons exceeded half a million. Israel today threatens to expel the residents of Sidon and to shell it indiscriminately.

The Zionists' grudge did not spare the residents of the Palestinian camps, who also came under brutal raids. At a time when the human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, quickly exposed the dimensions of the Israeli aggression, the United States continued to provide the political cover and the justifications for the Israeli crimes and massacres.

The United States even obstructed the UN Security Council and prevented it from adopting any initiative to end the Israeli aggression. Meanwhile, Israel showed

resentment of the French initiative and considered the European sympathy with Lebanon as a challenge to it. Israel also leaked information that it will not take into account any external endeavors, except for the U.S. endeavors.

Throughout the past few days, all international observers, without exception, explained the U.S. sympathy with the Israeli aggression as a green light and encouragement for Israel to proceed with its shelling of Lebanon and to increase the Lebanese people's suffering.

The United States, in its capacity as the main cosponsor of the peace process, should have intervened, contained the volatile situation, and returned calm to the region — out of its concern for its own peace initiative. Instead it followed a totally reverse path and showed total bias toward Israel. This prompted Israel to persist in its aggression and demonstrate new forms of haughtiness and arrogance, reminiscent of the practices of the Hitlerites and Nazis during the German occupation of Europe and Russia.

The question is: What is the future of the peace process after the United States lost its credibility and after Israel—through its recent aggression which caused devastation and human tragedies—confirmed that it is the antithesis of peace?

Israel today is the same as Israel under Ben-Gurion and Begin which resorted to force and terrorism as a way to impose its schemes. The Israeli callers for peace have turned into wolves which are thirsty for blood, killing, and destruction. This enhances the conviction that Israel's peace allegations are mere deception and that these allegations aim to open loopholes in the Arab wall in order to realize what Israel failed to achieve through wars, aggressions, and terrorism.

The Israeli officials, led by Peres, are well aware that the crisis in southern Lebanon is one of occupation and that there will be no solution if this occupation is not removed. They are also well aware that as long as there is occupation the resistance will continue.

Moreover, the Israeli officials are well aware that force does not solve anything. Rabin used force in 1993 and stormed southern Lebanon. However, the situation did not change. Before that, Begin stormed Lebanon in 1982 and occupied Beirut and the mountain but he had to withdraw without achieving a single political gain.

Today, through its recent aggression, Peres merely exposes to the whole world Israel's true face. Peres will only reap disappointment and failure, because Lebanon will not relinquish its territory or the south, and will not abandon Security Council Resolution 425.

Furthermore, Syria will continue to support Lebanon, coordinate with it, and share with it the good and bad times as a prelude to regaining all rights and forcing Israel into fully withdrawing from southern Lebanon and the Golan and implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The brutal and unjust Israeli aggression will only result in solidifying the joint Lebanese-Syrian will in terms of steadfastness and struggle until all the territories and rights are regained and until the Israeli occupation is totally removed.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: UN Envoy Holds Talks With Taleban Leaders

LD1604161896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN secretary general's special envoy on Afghanistan, held talks with Taleban leaders in Kandahar yesterday [15 April].

According to a Central News Unit report, Mulla Amir Jan Motaqi, confirming the report, said: Mestiri has no special plan or proposal for the restoration of security and peace in Afghanistan. His aim is to prepare those involved for talks. Mullah Motaqi announced that the Taleban were ready to accept any sensible plan which could result in the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Deputy Minister—Taleban To Hold Talks With Iran

BK1604154696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, April 16 (AFP) — The Taleban militia who are besieging the Afghan capital are to hold talks with Iranian officials in Teheran for the first time, Iran's deputy foreign minister said here Tuesday [16 April].

The move announced by 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi marks an apparent revival in Iran's four-month-old drive to mediate a peace agreement between Afghanistan's warring factions, observers here said.

"The Taleban leadership has agreed to send a delegation to Tehran for the continuation of talks," he said, adding his government has already held several rounds of talks with the militiamen in Pakistan.

Borujerdi, who was on a two-day visit to Kabul where he met President Borhanoddin Rabbani and other coalition leaders for talks, said one of the main goals of his trip was to help iron out differences between the government and two opposition groups with which it is negotiating.

"We are seeing positive points on the horizon in Afghanistan's future, mainly the serious discussions between the government and the Hezb-e-Eslami and the Hezb-e-Wahdat groups," he said.

Rabbani's administration has been holding talks with the two warring factions since early this year, prompting rumours that the Hezb-e-Eslami of ex-premier Golboddin Hekmatyar would rejoin the government.

The deputy foreign minister revealed his four-day tour of Afghanistan — his third in four months — would also take him to the eastern city of Jalalabad for talks with Hekmatyar and to the central town of Bamyan where he will meet Hezb-e-Wahdat leader Karim Khalili.

Borujerdi said he hoped the government and its two former enemies would be able to reach a "comprehensive understanding with the participation of all Afghan factions."

The factions began negotiations earlier this year after Iran launched its peace mediation drive, a process which Borujerdi said had reaped benefits.

"We have already been successful in bringing closer the viewpoints of the state and the opposition, progress which has taken place after a long period of hostilities and clashes," he told reporters.

He also said he was optimistic of finding a peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict, despite the enormous difficulties facing the process, although he said recent renewed U.S. interest in Afghanistan would not help bring peace.

We are not optimistic concerning the moves of the United States here as we see that the U.S. is supporting the regime that is occupying (Jerusalem) and which is killing Muslims.

"It therefore seems seriously doubtful to us that the U.S. will help Afghan Muslims," he warned.

Borujerdi also said that Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was visiting Pakistan Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on improving the soured ties between Kabul and Islamabad.

The two countries have been bitterly divided for months over Kabul's allegations that Islamabad supports the Taleban militarily and financially.

But Borujerdi said there had been a slight improvement in bilateral ties.

"The Afghan state has shown readiness to bring ties with Pakistan closer and Islamabad has shown similar eagerness," he said.

Afghanistan: Iran's Borujerdi Denies Interfering in Afghan Affairs

LD1604202996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghanistan's peace-seeking policy encourages Iran to continue its peace efforts in the country, Iranian Deputy Foreign minister Ala'eddin Borujerdi told a news conference. He added: After talks

with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and other Afghan leaders, we are confident that there are positive points in the interest of a lasting peace and the cessation of fighting. The efforts made so far have raised hopes.

Mr. Borujerdi said the Iranian delegation's visit is part of the efforts, begun earlier by Iran, to put an immediate end to the fighting and to prepare the ground for understanding and talks between Afghan factions. He said: We start any peace effort in consultation with Kabul and the central and lawful Government of Afghanistan, and consider the claims of some foreign groups that Iran interferes in the affairs of Afghanistan to be unfounded. As a neighboring country, Iran, which has a religion and language in common with the Afghans, wants peace in Afghanistan through intra-Afghan talks and understanding.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister and an accompanying delegation arrived in Kabul yesterday.

Afghanistan: 4 Injured in Taleban Rocket Attack on Kabul City

LD1604173496 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Taleban fired rockets at residential areas of Kabul City. Bakhtar reports that the Taleban fired rockets into residential areas. Four Kabul residents were injured as a consequence.

Heavy weapons exchanges continued throughout today to the south of Kabul. No reports have yet been received of casualties or fatalities among the Taleban.

India

India: U.S. Arms Supply to Pakistan Called 'Unfortunate'

BK1604155596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has termed as unfortunate the U.S. decision to transfer \$368 million worth of sophisticated arms to Pakistan. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said this will inevitably trigger an arms race. He said the decision will not only affect peace and stability, but also divert scarce resources from developmental programs. Mr. Mukherjee said Washington was taking the step despite Pakistan's long record of clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons technology and ballistic missiles. Numerous requests from influential U.S. Congressmen against transfer of arms to Pakistan have also been ignored.

Mr. Mukherjee said the U.S. State Department spokesman's expectation that the supply of arms will give greater influence over Pakistan's nuclear and other

policies is quite baseless. On the other hand, Pakistan's past record shows that the U.S. arms were repeatedly used against India.

India: ISI Involvement in Kashmir Shrine Incident Alleged

BK1604160596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Intelligence reports have indicated that there were three Pakistanis among the seven militants killed while trying to enter the Hazratbal shrine [in Kashmir] last month. Official sources in New Delhi said the presence of Pakistanis among the militants in their attempt to take over the shrine reveals that the Pakistani ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] is actively involved in the incident.

India: 15 Injured in Kashmir Landmine Blast

BK1604154396 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, April 16 (AFP) — At least 15 people were injured Tuesday in a landmine blast staged by Muslim rebels in the heart of this Kashmir summer capital ahead of upcoming polls, police said.

They said the explosion occurred late Tuesday at Srinagar's downtown Kawldora quarter near the office of the powerful All Parties Freedom Conference — an amalgam of some 30 Muslim rebel and political groups.

There were no claims of responsibility for the attack.

Officials said the blast was apparently aimed at members of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF), who were deployed in the area.

Witnesses blamed the border guards for the injuries, saying the attack prompted firing by the guards, who wounded at least 15 civilians, including a child.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when Muslim rebels stepped up a drive against Indian rule. The guerrillas have vowed to block proposed elections in the state, under direct federal rule since 1989.

Voters in Kashmir are scheduled to go to the polls on May 7, May 23 and May 30 to elect six representatives to the Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament.

India: LTTE 'Suicide Squad' Said To Target Political Leaders

BK1704063596 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
17 Apr 96

[Report by Upali Rupasinghe — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi — The Janata Party President, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, has alleged that the outlawed LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) had despatched a suicide squad to India with the object of assassinating five political leaders who were considered by the Tigers to be inimical to their interest.

Dr. Swamy in a statement issued in Madras last weekend, said the LTTE squad had infiltrated India late February or in the first week of March.

According to the statement the LTTE had already declared officially that they sought a friendly government in New Delhi which could assist them in their terrorist activities in Sri Lanka and elsewhere.

"Some parties have been identified as friendly to them and some others as hostile to their goals and aims," he said.

A senior Investigation Bureau (IB) officer had called on Dr. Swamy a few days ago and informed him that he was one of the five leaders who had been targeted for assassination by the LTTE. The IB officer had requested him to take adequate care in view of numerous jail breaks in Tamil Nadu by LTTE prisoners and the inability of the state government to apprehend them, he added.

Meanwhile, the LTTE has become a major issue in the Tamil Nadu election campaign. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] supremo Jayalalitha during her election tour in Perambalur, Tiruvallur district talking to voters at several places reiterated that it was a war between Dharma and Adharma [religion and atheism]. She said that she was standing on the side of Dharma while Karunanidhi who has close links with the LTTE was on the side of Adharma. "For whom will you vote" she asked the electorate.

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president, Kumari Ananthan addressing an election meeting in Madurai, said Karunanidhi had allowed the LTTE to move freely in Tamil Nadu and allowed the assassins of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] chief, Padmanabha to escape.

The Union Minister for Welfare, K.V. Thangabalu speaking at an election meeting at Chepauk, said that the LTTE roamed in the state freely and seeds were sown

for various violent acts during the two years' rule of Karunanidhi.

Mr. K. Karunanidhi, leader of the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], said at several meetings that his party is in favour of the Tamil Eelam movement in Sri Lanka but never referred to his soft attitude towards the LTTE.

India: Former Premier Criticizes Perry's Remarks on Nuclear Issue

BK1604131196 Delhi All India Radio General
Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has alleged that the foreign intervention in Indian policy-making has become very obvious. Referring to the reported statement by the U.S. defense secretary that the Americans want to eliminate the nuclear capability of India, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it was up to Indian people to take a final decision on the issue. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this morning.

India: Air Force Reportedly To Purchase Russian Fighter

BK1604021796 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
14 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE cabinet is believed to have cleared the way for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to add a new aircraft to its combat fleet: the Russian-built two-seat, multi-role, long-range Su-30 MK, the latest offering from the famed Sukhoi design bureau.

The defence deal, possibly the most expensive for a one-weapon system, will cost nearly Rs[rupees] 6,310 crore in a six-year timeframe up to February 2002.

Despite shrinking defence budgets, the decision has been taken in response to growing IAF pressure for a multi-role air-craft to deal with short and long-term threats in the region.

A multi-role aircraft gives an air force greater flexibility in mobilising resources over a large war front as the same squadron can be deployed for air defence, interdiction or deep strikes, keeping the adversary off balance.

While there has been some controversy about the best choice for a multi-role aircraft - the French Mirage 2000-5 being the other contender - there was no real question about the need for an aircraft of this kind.

The bulk of the IAF combat strength still consists of the aging MiG-21 variants. Some of these, of the "bis" variety, are awaiting an expensive upgradation. The others are increasingly becoming a liability, given their limitations of range, firepower and electronics, and a high accident rate.

While accepting that a piece-to-piece replacement for these aircraft was too expensive, the IAF and the Ministry of Defence have pleaded before the Cabinet that they could make do with a smaller number of high-performance, multi-role aircraft.

They said that future acquisitions and the IAF structure-planning incorporating the use of multi-role aircraft and force-multiplier capabilities "would enable a smaller-sized force to achieve the same objectives as were effected through employment of larger force levels of older vintage...In the long term, the acquisition of up to five squadrons of such multi-role aircraft along with combat support systems will permit reduction of combat squadron holdings to 33 as against existing 39 1/2 squadrons," says the Ministry of Defence assessment paper.

Accordingly, the choice has fallen on a multi-role Su-30 MK which Russia has offered to custom-build for the IAF, modifying the original Su-30K ADV (air defence variant) which was primarily meant for interception and escort missions.

Initially, the first lot of eight aircraft will be Su-30K - a two-seat combat aircraft capable of operating over long ranges for over three hours with the potential to carry eight tonnes of weapon load. The Su-30K defence variant will be followed by delivery of Su-30 MK till February 2001. Thereafter, the Su-30Ks will be upgraded to Su-30 MK by September 2001.

The choice of the Russian craft was based not only on the long-standing relationship that India enjoys with it but on the technical evaluation carried out jointly by the IAF and the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO). The aircraft "conforms" to the Air Staff Requirements (ASRs) and the MoD believes its life-cycle cost will be 40 per cent lower than the Mirage 2000-5.

Indian strategists are worried that the Hank Brown Amendment will enable Pakistan to acquire P-3C Orion aircraft enabling it to target India's off-shore resources, naval forces and merchant shipping along the west coast.

Consequently, India needs a long-range, high-endurance aircraft to deter the P-3Cs which could be operating from hundreds of miles away from India's coastal air bases. MiG-29, currently the best interceptor with the IAF, has very limited range.

If concluded, the Su-30 MK deal would not be the first time that the Russians would have made major modifications in an aircraft system for India - whom Moscow considers a significant client. The An-32, which forms the bulk of the IAF transport fleet, is a hybrid of the An-26 airframe and the larger An-12 engines to give it short take-off and landing capability which the IAF required for the Himalayan airfields.

While the IAF has been largely built around Russian-origin equipment for almost three decades, most of its aircraft have come from the famed Mikoyan (MiG) design bureau. But the IAF used one Sukhoi production - the Su-7 - which it employed as the spearhead of its strike force in the 1971 war with questionable tactics and, therefore, mixed results. It accounted for a bulk of India's losses in the air.

India: Rao's Congress Appeals for Fresh Mandate

BK1404092396 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1600 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Speech by Devendra Dwivedi of the Indian National Congress from the "National Election Broadcast" program; place not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brothers and sisters: Election is the spirit of democracy and through elections, new blood is injected into our political system. It is the election which validates the dictum that a representative government is answerable to the people.

The upcoming election has a special and historical significance. The election to the 11th Lok Sabha will be the last one in the 20th century, and the great people of India will enter the 21st century under the leadership of the party which you will elect to form a government at the federal level. The Congress party is presenting itself before you a historical perception to secure your blessings and support in these important elections. On your decision hinges the future of our democracy which is passing through a transitional and rapidly changing situation. In the election, the people elect a government for the next five years, but while doing so they make a comparative study of the various parties' past records and present policies and programs, keeping in view the future of the Indian people.

The Indian National Congress with its 110 years of history and nation building records of the 46 out of approximately 50 years after independence, and its government's services and achievements during past five years under Narasimha Rao's leadership, is humbly but confidently presenting itself before you to seek your mandate again. Five years ago, you had provided an opportunity to our party to form the government. During

those elections, the entire nation had received a jolt when our dear leader Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in cold blood by the enemies of our nation. Please look back and recall the situation of the country when the Congress party government led by P.V. Narasimha Rao took over the reins of power. What did the country get during the two and half years of non-Congress rule? All it got were political instability, social tension, religion- and caste-based clashes, and the upper hand of terrorism in Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam. Our economic system had almost begun to creak, the process of development had stagnated, and the inflation was getting out of control. We did not have enough foreign exchange left to finance the purchase of essential consumer items like diesel, kerosene, medicine, and fertilizers for more than two weeks. Our creditworthiness in foreign countries had fallen to such a low level that we had to pawn our country's gold to get a small amount of money.

Friends, such things generally happen when no Congress government is in power. Please consider the situation of the country today. In spite of being the head of a minority government, Narasimha Rao, our prime minister and national leader, completed the five-year term, running the affairs of the state with discretion, wisdom, patience, farsightedness, and courage and creating a realization in the minds of the people that his is a strong and stable government. Today, marching forward on the path of progress, our country has reached a point which will be considered a matter of pride for any nation. Today, the political scenario of the entire country has changed. Terrorism has been eliminated in Punjab. There is peace in northeastern states. In Kashmir, too, Lok Sabha elections are being held. The political temperature of the entire country has become normal. The people appear to be getting tired of politics based on religion and caste. There has been a qualitative change in our economic life. This has had an impact on both the national and international politics. The changes brought about by economic reforms in India are being viewed as a success story all over the world. Our country's masses, too, have begun to understand how much lie or truth there was in the misleading propaganda of the last few years. Today, if we were to take a bird's eye-view of the country's economy, we will realize how far we have moved on the difficult path of progress and development. The results of the economic policies pursued during the last five years are now becoming visible. The rate of growth has increased and obstacles in the way of growth have been removed. Poverty alleviation, employment generation, rural development, and lifting of the standard of living of the socially and economically backward sections have been our priorities and we have achieved desired results in these sectors. At the root of our every step toward economic reforms lies the welfare

of the Indian citizen. The Congress has always attached top priority to agriculture. Agricultural production declined in 1991-92, but increased by 4 percent annually during the last few years. We have provided remunerative prices for agricultural produce. We have not only become self-sufficient in food grain but also created infinite potential for the export of agricultural products. We are in the forefront of countries which export wheat and rice.

We have been successful in diversifying agriculture. Our country now ranks first in the world production of fruits. We are the world's second largest producers of milk, vegetables, and sugar. We are now in a position to make available irrigation facilities to 2.1 million hectares of land per year. If we look at the entire economic structure and the economic activities and programs implemented during the last five years, we will naturally feel a sense of pride. Our growth rate has exceeded 5 percent for the first time after a gap of several years. A sum of 330 billion rupees has been allocated for rural development programs. An equilibrium between imports and exports has been reestablished. Success in the export sector has surpassed our expectations. Our exports have now touched \$33 billion or 990 billion rupees.

The growth rate in the industrial sector in the last fiscal year has been 12 percent. Our foreign exchange reserves have reached 700 billion rupees. These are not merely statistics but an outline of a changing India. They represent the achievements of not only the Congress government but of the entire Indian people, of our country's entrepreneurs, workers, farmers, and scientists. In the field of capital investment, our achievements in both foreign and domestic investments have been satisfactory. Domestic investment proposals worth 5000 billion rupees are under consideration, while foreign investment worth 370 billion rupees has already been made in the country. Foreign investments have been under our law, on our terms, and according to our priorities. The manner in which capital investment has been made has created limitless potential for employment generation and all-around development.

In the field of science, our scientists have attracted the attention of the entire world. Our satellites have become the source of strength in the fields of communication, radio, television, and meteorology. Our computer engineers are reputed all over the world. Agni and Prithvi missiles have become the symbols of national achievements. The facts I placed before you represent only a few aspects of our overall economy. Our achievements cannot be measured by statistics alone. The government under the leadership of Narasimha Rao has changed the economic scene in such a way, and created so many possibilities for rapid growth in the coming years and for a

momentum in the entire economic system, that fundamental and qualitative changes have been brought about to the nation's economic life. You are fully aware of the many false propaganda carried out against our policies when we had chosen the path of economic reforms and liberalization. Our detractors initiated a propaganda campaign to create an illusion in the minds of the people that the new economic policy will lead to the closure of our industries; that it will increase unemployment and rate of inflation and the foreign companies will come to dominate us. But, the truth is before you today. India is the first country in the world, which implemented the economic reform and liberalization process in a manner which did not put any pressure on the economically backward section of our society. Even in a country like China, the inflation rate had crossed 40 percent, leading to a tremendous increase in prices. However, in India, our party government under the leadership of Narasimha Rao executed the liberalization policy in such a manner that it neither led to the increase in unemployment or a hike in prices. It did not allow the inflation rate to rise beyond 9 percent, which is a sort of world record. The public distribution system was strengthened to ensure that inflation did not affect the poor masses. Our economic policies have been determined on the basis of the people's needs and our past experiences. Adhering to the policies enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and later strengthened by Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi, the Narasimha Rao-led government has executed the new economic policy according to the challenges of the time and the changing global scenario. In terms of economic potential and size, India is considered to be the sixth largest economic power in the world. India's credibility among foreign countries has increased and many foreign entrepreneurs are willing to invest in India, more than in China. These are a few of our achievements in the economy over the past five years.

The steps we have taken in the political and social sectors have further enhanced the democratic character of our politics. By passing the 73d amendment to the Constitution, the Narasimha Rao-led government has not only added a glorious chapter to the history of constitutions all over the world but also fulfilled the dreams of Rajiv Gandhi by establishing local administrative institutions at village, subdivisional, and district levels. By ensuring compulsory representation of women and backward sections of the society in the local administrative institutions, we have given a new meaning to democracy and a new dimension to decentralization. Our society had become divided and agitated over the issue of reservation for socially backward people. However, the manner in which the Congress government found the solution to this problem and enforced it in

accordance with the objective of the Constitution and through national consensus, rising above party politics, has enabled us to take a revolutionary step toward social transformation.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Indian National Congress is not merely a political party. Our party is a party of national revolution and national unity. Even after independence, history entrusted us with the task of building the nation. The Congress has received unparalleled love and affection of the people over the past five decades, and the main reason for this has been that it has devoted its policies to protecting the interests of every section of the society through cooperation and not confrontation. Democracy can function only on the basis of national consensus. Democracy based on the parliamentary system, secularism, an independent foreign policy, economic development, social justice, and supremacy of law are values on which national consensus has been achieved under the leadership of the Congress over the decades. Unfortunately, new questions are now being raised on fundamental principles on which national consensus has already been built. Secularism is a prerequisite of our democracy. Religion and politics have two different domains. Religion is very important for life. However, it has nothing to do with politics, nor does politics with religion. Religion is defiled when it is tied up with the politics of votes and politics then loses its independence. In India, a practical aspect of secularism is the maintenance of harmony between the Hindus and the Muslims. Allowing any aspect of secularism to be harmed in any way is not in the interest of the nation.

Today, our country stands at a point where a strong and stable government is a historical necessity. Only Congress can form a durable, stable, and reliable government at the federal level. The Indian National Congress is the only all India party which enjoys support in every corner of the country. All other parties are regional parties which are not present in major parts of the country. Whenever a coalition government has been formed at the federal level, the country has had to pay a very heavy price. It is easy to form a government on the basis of an anti-Congress wave but to run it is a completely different thing. Only Congress can provide a stable government for the country. The Indian National Congress appeals to the people of India to give an absolute majority to our party under the stewardship of our dear leader Narasimha Rao so that we shall be able to provide more strength and dynamism to India's social, economic, and political systems. We promise that the government led by Narasimha Rao will increase the economic growth rate from 7 to 8 percent in the next five years, generate 10 million new job opportunities every year, reduce the number of people living below

the poverty line to less than 10 percent by the turn of the century, provide material for the construction of 1 million houses every year, give priority to education of girls, provide substantive and direct assistance to the people belonging to the weaker sections of society, and empower the farmers to earn foreign exchange through exports. Please give us an absolute majority to form a stable and strong government. Our party promises to provide prosperity and glory to the people of India. Thank you.

India: Janata Dal Leader Makes Election Broadcast

*BK1604010796 Delhi All India Radio Network
in Hindi 1615 GMT 13 Apr 96*

[Speech by Janata Dal leader Sharad Yadav from the "Election Broadcast" program: place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The upcoming 1996 general election in India is one that will shape the future history of the nation. It is this election that will decide our future generations and their future. Today, 50 years have elapsed since the country attained independence. It is an occasion when we have to consider and think about where we have led our country during these 50 years after winning independence.

The nation is surrounded by challenges today. In the world, our country is replete with poverty, joblessness, and unemployment, as well as with disabled children—that is, with all sorts of faults. In other words, there is joblessness, unemployment, poverty, hunger, lawlessness [preceding word in English] today. We have never formulated any correct policy on casteism. The caste system should have been relaxed, weakened, fought against, and eliminated. We have not done it. There is corruption and bribery in the country. In other words, the country's prime minister himself said once that only 15 percent of funds are spent on land, and the remainder is swallowed by people in the middle.

There are three fronts, three ways, and three paths on which there should be elections in this country. One is the National Front-Left Front, with a red flag and green flag. Another front, another way, is that of the Congress. Yet another path is that of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The people of the country, who are also this country's masters, must make a choice and a decision regarding these three paths — regarding who they can entrust with the responsibility of leading the country, and to seek that responsibility, I will put forward our program on behalf of Janata Dal.

The new economic policy that was introduced has taken away 1 million jobs—I mean from people who were employed before and not those seeking new jobs.

Recruitment is being done by the police, administration, and the army. Jobs, which are the source of creation and construction, are being reduced. Today the meaning of the new economic policy is to open up global markets. There should not be any restrictions to our trade, that is, our products. There should, however, be restrictions on manpower. In our country, we have more manpower, more labor, more skilled workers [preceding two words in English]; however, we do not have permission to travel in the world. Obtaining a visa has become the most difficult thing. That is, there are restrictions on men.

We talk a lot about the market, but there are restrictions on men. If our administration, our government, is created, we will gather all the countries of the Third World. Mahatma Gandhi had a dream. Whether it is the poverty of a country or that of the world, there is some element of global humanity somewhere or other. We would like to consolidate all the poor countries of the Third World and launch a global movement to eradicate the inequality existing between the countries of the world.

The inequality in India—whether it is that of poverty or caste and creed, or it is the conflict of faith and religion — there is a systematic program with our party as well as with our front. Regarding employment, I have told you, in accordance with the new economic policy, about 1 million people were expelled from the public and private sectors in India in line with the golden shake-hand scheme [preceding three words in English]. There has been no creation of new job opportunities. In other words, the hallmark of poverty itself is joblessness and unemployment.

So what will our policy to remove poverty and unemployment be if we came to power? I want to humbly remind the people of the country that 70 percent of Indians are dependent on agriculture and live in villages. This country's greatest asset is the abundance of water resources. We have fast flowing rivers that create havoc in form of floods. Then there are many areas that receive no rainfall at all. That means some areas are ruined by floods and some by drought. First, we want to prepare a water management [preceding two words in English] program. I am using the words water management in English to convey the meaning of the program in simplest terms — to put in one sentence that we will link the farms with water. We need big and small dams and lift irrigation systems for this purpose, all of which require energy. That is why I consider hydro-electricity as most important for us.

If there is any country where hydro-electricity could be produced, it is in our country India. It is a miracle that

we can produce so much hydro-electricity that we do not need any oil and coal resources. This means we should start working to link the country's farms with water. Wherever we have done this, the daily income of the weakest sections of society and helpless workers, whom we call daily wage earners, is either 70 rupees, 60 rupees, or 55 rupees. In Jagdalpur, which is a very poor area, or in Chattisgarh, which is even poorer, or in eastern Uttar Pradesh, where there is no irrigation system, workers get wages for only five, six, or seven months, and that too at the rate of 5, 7, 11 or 12 rupees a day. It means that a person's life changes with availability of water and not with big industries.

It is necessary to have big industries, but in India we have to increase the income of 70 percent of the population living in villages, and this could be achieved only through improving agriculture. If agriculture is improved, the income of 70 percent of our population will increase. There is old saying in our country that good rains bring good green crops.

The second largest section of population is self-employed in the handicraft industry. Even today, 30 percent of the foreign exchange reserves earned by our country is due to the magic of our craftsmen. So this 11 percent of the Indian population does not want employment from you. They are engaged in traditional professions and businesses. The question is how to improve their professions and businesses to increase their income, which in turn will further improve the market for scientific, technological, and industrial products by increasing the purchasing power of consumers. This will also improve the situation for workshops, industries, and factories, which will create employment. [passage omitted]

The influence of money and material in the elections has increased too much. Corruption has spread deep into all areas of life. India has lost 500 billion rupees in all kinds of scandals during the last five years, whether it is the securities scam or sugar scam. It means that the accountability of the executive to the parliament has been disrupted [preceding word in English] for the first time in India. If we come to power, we will work to restore the executive's accountability to parliament, which is also its biggest strength.

On issues like Kashmir and national security, I want to ask how incidents like the Purulia [arms dropping] case could happen in India. Regarding the issue of Kashmir, it should be settled through a dialogue with Pakistan. We are not willing to accept anyone's mediation on this issue. Kashmir is an integral part of India, and we all should resolve before the nation to keep it like that.

Today in India there is a widespread mention of foreign investment and foreign markets. I want to humbly tell you that it is true that there is a lot of talk about foreign markets. What are the fields in which the multinationals have made their investments under the new economic policies being pursued by our country? They have taken full control of three sectors — soft drinks, automobiles, and cosmetics. These handful of people have spent their money to control the middle class market among the 900 million poor people of India, and this middle class is not small in size. It is as large as three times the population of Britain.

I want to humbly tell you that we need [word indistinct], we need foreign investment for oil exploration. We will prepare a list for foreign investment. We welcome foreign investment. We definitely lack funds, but it should be in fields like oil exploration. If you can produce hydro-electricity, you are welcome to share it with us. You can take half of it or one-fourth of it and give us two-third. [sentence as heard]. If investments are to be made, it ought to be in the field of basic infrastructure of this country so that the lives of our villagers and artisans are changed. We have to ensure this.

I want to appeal to the citizens of the country that the Janata Dal is the axis of the National Front-Left Front alliance. This front is the rallying point for the masses. I humbly want to tell you that we do not have any means or resources. We are contesting these elections only with your confidence in us. That is why I appeal to the Indian masses that we are the rallying point for the poor, and we are contesting the election knowing that the people's support and confidence are behind us. We are sure you will give us help, support, love and stand behind us. With these words, I appeal to the people of the entire country to work for the victory of the Janata Dal and the National Front-Left Front alliance. I end my speech here with these words and by saluting and greetings all of you. Hail India, Hail farmers.

Iran

Iran: Khamene'i Receives Hizballah Delegation, Hails 'True Jihad'

MM1704100796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
17 Apr 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ghassan al-Tahir: "Khamene'i Receives Hizballah Delegation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran — A reliable source has confirmed to AL-HAYAH that 'Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Islamic Republic [of Iran], met the day before yesterday with a military delegation from the

Islamic Resistance Command, Hizballah's military wing in Lebanon.

The source said that Khamene'i expressed his support for the [Hizballah] party's stand, describing its retaliation against the Israeli military attacks as "a true jihad." However, he urged them to be prudent lest they arouse the people's discontent.

The meeting coincided with extensive high-level contacts between Damascus and Tehran, especially the telephone conversation between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Hafiz al-Asad the evening before last.

The reliable source, who is concerned with the relationship between Hizballah and the Iranian leadership, pointed out that "three Islamic Resistance Command members and a civilian political member met with the leader [Khamene'i], and that Khamene'i stressed his support for Hizballah's stands and decisions.

The source said that Khamene'i said that "Israel started the war, so it is fully responsible for what is happening. He praised the steadfastness of the fighters, saying: Victory will be yours." However, Khamene'i stressed the need for "the party's leadership to be prudent and to study all its steps carefully lest they provoke the people's discontent."

The source said that Khamene'i reiterated his support for "Hizballah's current policy and all its stands, because it is defending the Lebanese people and their independence," saying that what is happening in Lebanon is "a true jihad, and it is the duty of all Muslims to support this front of truth." [passage omitted]

Iran: Aide—Iran Will Not Ask Hizballah To Stop Fighting

MM1604143596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
16 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Ghassan al-Tahir: "Iranian Official Tells AL-HAYAH: We Will Not Ask Hizballah To Stop Fighting"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran — Iran has renewed its support for Hizballah's stands, stressing that it will not ask Hizballah to stop the fighting. Following a telephone conversation with his French opposite number Herve de Charette, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati welcomed the "positive cooperation" between Tehran and Paris "to secure a solution to the ongoing fighting in Lebanon". Iranian television cited Velayati as saying that Iran and France have started "a joint move" on the explosive situation in Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyid Khansari, director of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has stressed to AL-HAYAH that Iran fully supports Hizballah's stands and the Lebanese people and their government in the light of the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He pointed out that consultations are continuing with France over current developments, stressing his country's willingness to cooperate and coordinate with the French authorities in this connection.

Prior to his departure from the Iranian capital for Damascus and Beirut at the head of a political and social delegation, Khansari said that he will meet in the Syrian capital with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. "We are in constant contact with the Syrian leadership to consult, exchange views, and coordinate." The Iranian delegation is expected to arrive in Beirut today. It includes experts from the Foreign Ministry Political Department and officials from the Iranian Red Crescent Organization and the Imam Khomeyni Relief Organization.

He pointed out that he will meet with "all political leaders and senior religious figures in Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Seyyid Mohammad Kazem Khansari told AL-HAYAH that he "will convey to Lebanese leaders Iran's support for the people and the government, and the Islamic Republic's condemnation of the barbarous and savage Zionist attacks." He denied that he will ask Hizballah to stop the fighting with a view to calming things down. "There is no need for us to ask Hizballah to do that, since we support its declared logical and rational stands."

He stressed that Israel "is fully responsible, as it has violated the July 1993 agreement and shelled civilians." He added that Iran "believes that Hizballah's retaliation is within the framework of the legitimate resistance compatible with international law and UN resolutions." In this context he praised the French position, "which is positive compared with the positions of the other European states." [passage omitted]

Iran: Rafsanjani Condemns UN 'Silence' on Events in Lebanon

LD1704084696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0630 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Armed Forces Day was marked today at Tehran's Azadi Square in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our correspondent reports on the president's speech at the gathering of armed forces personnel.

[Begin correspondent recording] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a speech at the glorious gathering of the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

He referred to various plots and adventurism by our enemies, including the bitter events in which the innocent people of Lebanon have been subjected to the wrath of America and the Zionist regime. He said the silence and the weak and unjustifiable approach of the United Nations and international circles to the Lebanese issues have turned the aggressor and bullying enemies into expansionists. [end recording]

Iran: Further on Rafsanjani's Armed Forces Day Address

LD1704120496 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Armed Forces Day was marked all over the country today. In Tehran President [Akbar] Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected the parade of the armed forces' model personnel in Azadi Square. [video shows parade of the army units]

[Correspondent] Dear viewers, I am reporting from Tehran's Azadi Square, where the personnel of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are parading. The zealous personnel, in their glorious parade this morning, demonstrated their capability to defend the Islamic homeland. [passage omitted]

Addressing the personnel, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: When the country was facing the deepest crisis, our grudge-bearing and expansionist enemies planned to confront this divine system. However, thanks to the people's support, our armed forces personnel fully defended the sanctity of Islam, the revolution, and the country. The army passed its test very well.

Referring to the enemies' countless conspiracies and acts of adventurism, including the bitter events of Lebanon — where the innocent people of that country have become the victims of the United States and the Zionist regime's wrath and grudge today — the president stressed: The unjustified silence of the United Nations and the weak response of the international forums are encouraging the aggressive and bullying enemies to seek further expansion.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the existing crises in the region, including the presence of the arrogant fleet in the southern [Gulf] waters and the Israeli fighter planes in Turkey. He said: Thanks to the unity among the armed forces and our revolutionary people and thanks to their spirit of selflessness and devotion, the system

of the Islamic Republic of Iran is enjoying peace and tranquillity and is continuing its path of reconstruction and progress. [passage omitted]

Iran: Rafsanjani, Syria's al-Asad Discuss Lebanon Situation

LD1604120796 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation last night, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad discussed various aspects of Israel's attack on Lebanon.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the bitter events taking place in Lebanon and said they are painful for the world of Islam. He said: We expect greater initiatives from Islamic countries. The president spoke of the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to give relief aid to the suffering people of Lebanon, and said: A delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran will soon be going to Syria and the region to make an on-the-spot assessment of developments in Lebanon and of the plight of the victims of Israel's acts of terrorism.

Praising the Lebanese people's steadfastness and resistance in the face of the Zionists' terrorism, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The continued resistance of the people of Lebanon has had a positive impact on the world of Islam and it has made the world of Islam more aware of the hollowness of Israel's claims that it wants peace.

The president expressed pleasure at Syria's intelligence and firm stances regarding the joint conspiracies of the United States and Israel and said: Coordination, exchanges of views, and the joint stances of Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran will play a considerable role in thwarting the conspiracies of Zionism, and warm the hearts of the Lebanese people.

For his part, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad expressed gratitude for the interest shown by the Iranian Government and president, and said: In the last few days, we have seen bitter events arising from Israel's acts of terrorism. However, despite the vast scale of the crimes and the displacement of large sections of the Lebanese population — especially the tragic state of Lebanese women and children refugees — the morale of the people and officials in Lebanon is high, and we will continue our relief assistance, with all our might, to the people being attacked.

The Syrian president also expressed gratitude for the relief assistance extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: We consider Iran to be in the front line of assistance to the world of Islam, especially to the

displaced refugees of Lebanon, and we would like to thank Iran for this.

Mr. Hafiz al-Asad said: We agree with the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Zionist conspiracy goes beyond a terrorist attack and is not unconnected with developments in the region.

Iran: Khamene'i Speaks on Lebanon, Elections

*LD1604165496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1010 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to mark Armed Forces Day on 16 April; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, today, at a large gathering of the commanders and personnel of the Armed Forces, described the attacks and crimes of the Zionist regime in Lebanon as humanity's great tragedy. I draw your attention to the details of the esteemed leader's speech, at this meeting.

[Khamene'i] Welcome, my dear ones. I hope that the Armed Forces Day [17 April] will be a happy, fruitful, and destiny-creating day. These commemoration days and weeks such as: Armed Forces Day, Teacher's Day, Worker's Day, [Islamic Revolution] Guards Corps day and so forth, exist for the purposes of objective self-examination and assessment. One must look at oneself from the outside and not from the inside. The latter is introspection but the former is a critical look that seeks to point to weaknesses.

We thank God that the Army has progressed in the course of all these years. The Armed Forces today cannot be compared to previous years. The Armed Forces have made a lot of progress. Still, objective assessment and examination is always necessary. The same goes for individuals. Individuals also need to step outside themselves, which is more difficult than stepping outside institutions. We all need to do this. [passage omitted]

You should look at yourselves and see what is needed. It is only when this nation became aware of its defects and weaknesses that it started to believe in itself and make progress. You should always ask yourselves what kind of armed forces are needed by a vanguard, independent nation with the most superior humanitarian aspirations and ideals. This should be your goal and you should move toward it.

The root of the matter concerning this revolution and this country is the issue of independence. All blessings and good things are gained by a country once it becomes

independent. All weaknesses stem from being dependent on a country since dependence is the first step toward ignoring the divine blessings that have been bestowed on a nation. [passage omitted]. It means being blind to the beliefs, indigenous culture, and aspirations of the people and even blind to the national interest. These are the results of dependency.

The worst governments and states are those that impose dependency on their own nation because nations do not want to be dependent. Even a villager does not want to be dependent on a rural or urban center. Indeed, dependency goes against human nature. But governments imposed it on nations. They crush nations. They did it in one way yesterday and are doing it in another today. Today, they create dependency through propaganda and not through force, because nations are more aware and experienced and understand more than before. They cannot be forced but can be influenced by propaganda.

Just look at the issue of Lebanon — a great human tragedy. This cannot be denied. It is a great human tragedy and yet, not a sound, not an effective sound has been uttered by Arab countries, let alone from Islamic countries or others. The ugliest form of aggression that could be imagined is being committed today by the evil, cruel and inhuman Zionists against Lebanon.

The stand of Hizballah and the people of Lebanon today is a defensive one. They are defending themselves. The Hizballah are today defending the people of Lebanon and their rights. They are doing their utmost to defend the rights of the people of Lebanon and the independence of Lebanon.

The usurper government of Palestine has not stopped at usurping Palestine, it has come and taken over a part of southern Lebanon. That is their first action.

They [Hizballah] are defending and saying, get out of our land. The whole world praises combatants who say to occupiers, leave our land. Look at any liberation movement in the world that says to a stranger, get out of my land, and see how friend and foe admire it.

This is the first time for the arrogant world, led by the evil and malevolent America, to not only support, but criticize such an action. All they [Hizballah] are doing is saying to the usurper, leave my land.

During the latest clashes in Lebanon the matter went even further. For the Israelis, the Zionists, killed a child in Lebanon. To avenge the death of that child they [Hizballah] attacked Israel, and so Israel has embarked on this extensive, all-round offensive, during which a number of children have been killed. Most of the dead

in Lebanon, as they have informed us, are children. Children- murdering Zionists!

See how clear and obvious the tragedy is; how great the sin is; how clear the truth is. The U.S. president and the U.S. ruling machinery, instead of asking their evil puppets, that is the Israelis and the head of the Israeli Government, to show restraint, do less killing, commit less aggression, they attack Hizballah and the people of Lebanon politically and say, why do you not desist?

See how upside-down their norms and politics are; see how bad they are; see what sort of people mankind is encumbered with these days. Then you will understand what the Islamic Republic is saying; what the Imam [Khomeyni] was saying; what this revolution says. Then it will become clear.

They think and act so distortedly, unfairly, and inhumanly. They stand erect and hold their heads up unashamedly. One is amazed. If the smallest thing happens inside occupied Palestine he [Clinton] sticks his head out of the Black House and says something in line with his puppet Israeli dogs.

Dozens of people have been unfairly and violently killed in the process in their own homeland, while defending themselves. Not only are they not being supported, but they are being attacked. [passage omitted]

Who is to stand up to this trend of corruption and decay in the world? Are governments meant to hand over their nations, all tied up, to those gentlemen, to those powers? They believe all this themselves. They say, we are the leaders of the world. This claim is itself uglier than the deeds I mentioned before: That a bunch of bullies and thugs, who know nothing about the most basic principles of human morality, should claim that they are the leaders of several billion people — I think this is a greater insult to humanity than everything I mentioned before.

They have come to believe this. The Americans believe that they are the leader of humanity. Today, on the streets of New York, Washington and so on, an ordinary person cannot walk in the streets at night — cannot move without a weapon. [passage omitted] Twelve, thirteen-year-old children carry weapons on the streets of the United States, smoke cigarettes, and drink alcohol. Then, they claim to be the leaders of the world. This is disgraceful. [crowds chant "Death to America"]

This is what draws one's attention to the importance of a nation's independence. However, there are still some rulers who choose to leave the destiny of their country and nation — and everything that their country possesses — at the disposal of a group of ruthless tyrants who will then dictate all the policies and decisions. That is to say that if they order you to adopt a certain

position toward the Middle East, Bosnia, etc. then you are supposed to say: Yes sir, of course! But this is not right.

For a nation, there is nothing more shameful than dependence, and the biggest crime that a nation's officials can commit is to make their people dependent on others. Furthermore, the most important service that a country's officials can render is the safeguarding of their nation's independence. Of course, as you know, there are different types of independence. [passage omitted] [crowd chant: "Death to America"]

On the one hand, then, there is political independence. But what is more important is economic independence. The country's officials, Majles deputies and economics experts must make endeavors to ensure our independence in all economic, financial, and fiscal areas.

One of the areas where this has to be achieved is the armed forces, where one must ensure total independence. Right now, we have some foreign-made equipment. The foreigners thought that since they made this equipment, we would need their expertise in order to operate it. They attached great hope to this imagined need after the revolution in general and during the war in particular. However, you severed this umbilical cord, and right now, the existing hardware in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces no longer needs to be fed by foreigners.

This is what you have achieved. This is what the caring, faithful, and Hizballahi individuals have accomplished. I stress: Hizballahi. Certain circles should not try to undermine the status of the Hizballahis. It was the Hizballah who saved this country by doing what it did during the war. It was the Hizballah who preserved the Army. Without the Hizballah, the Army would have received massive blows as early as the coup in martyr Nojeh base [attempted military coup in 1980]. It was the Army's Hizballah that managed to foil a coup, planned by four hireling officers, and bring honor and pride to the Armed Forces. [crowd chant, supporting the revolution and condemning its enemies] [passage omitted]

These days there is talk of the elections. I have spoken repeatedly about the elections. Whatever needs to be said, we have said. All the emphasis I put on the elections and so forth is because this country has not gained its independence easily.

Heaven forbid that people should enter the Majles whose receivers are tuned to the strong transmitters of the United States and the West. Heaven forbid that people should enter it whose aerals are pointed in that direction, who are ready to receive whatever is coming

from there, in English, in order to publish it and report it here. This is what I am worried about. Of course, this nation is vigilant.

Also, let them not imagine that, if some people manage to take advantage — because of someone showing goodwill or being negligent in some way — and scrape into the Majles — let them not imagine that they will then enjoy immunity. No, not at all. If this vigilant, intelligent, self-sacrificing, and experienced nation find that an element that is affiliated [to the West] is in the Majles, this same nation will extend their hand into the Majles, grab the person and throw them out of the Majles. [crowd chants supporting slogans, including "Death to the hypocrites and Saddam"]

This is the reason why we stress the issue of religiosity. My dear ones, the tendency to be affiliated arises from irreligiosity. I am not suggesting that anyone who is not religious is affiliated. No. Different things motivate different people, after all. However, when a person is religious, they possess one extra shield protecting them from affiliation. This is very important.

I heard some people saying, in the middle of the campaign for the first round of these elections: Gentlemen, this or that person — perhaps without mentioning any names — is putting so much emphasis on religiosity and so on; what do these things matter? Specialist, knowledgeable people should go to the Majles, doctors, engineers, so that they can run the country. This is a mistake. It is not that the Majles does not need specialists. Yes, it does need specialists, but we have no shortage of specialists today. What I am saying is this: Oh, Iranian nation, among these doctors, these engineers, these specialists, these experts, search for and find the religious ones. Do not be satisfied with claims alone. They must be religious. When they are religious, then one can have peace of mind.

I have seen in the election campaigns in some places that an election candidate has not bothered to even observe religious appearances in the photograph on the campaign poster.

Well, this alerts one to the dangers involved because it may make some people believe that the time for this kind of talk is over; that people are no longer following religion and clergymen and are not wearing beards and so forth.

But this is a mistake. Today, people still place their trust in those who have faith; in deputies who have faith and in the clergy. These are the people that the nation has confidence in and trusts. And this is appropriate because religious faith prevents dependency. If there is no religious worship, dependency becomes easier. There

are some people whose [election] campaign slogans are not only devoid of any religious content, but even smack of opposition to religious, national, and revolutionary issues. Is it then not dangerous for these kinds of people to enter the Majles?

Of course, we are very sure of our people's alertness. I have full confidence in people's alertness. People are aware but this does not mean that a phoney person may not prevaricate and campaign in such a way as to confuse people, blur visions, and succeed in taking advantage of the situation. This is quite possible. And foreigners are encouraging this kind of situation. They are dividing the people of Iran. These divisions that they describe are mostly incorrect and false. One lot are described as right-wing, another as left-wing or traditional or modern — all these suggestions are rubbish, irrelevant.

Of course, there are some simple-minded people inside the country who are taken in by all this and who say: Yes, we belong to this or that faction. They think this is something to be proud of! No, sir, you should be a part of the Iranian nation; you should be a part of the revolutionary masses; a part of this religious people and nation. These terms of left, right, old, new and such like, are really fictional because none of these groups which they [foreigners] mention have offered any systematic and organized thoughts and ideology that could form the basis for categorization and comparison. How could these groups be, therefore, divided along such meaningless and irrelevant lines by foreign propaganda? But, yes, there is a counter-revolutionary, counter-religious current; a pseudo-liberalism; a dependent liberalism. Yes, we do have this current in the country. I am not denying it.

There are people who were puppets of the corrupt and tyrannical former regime, cooperated with it, obeyed it and became its slaves, tolerated it, and said nothing, while it was in power. They were writers, poets, artists, journalists, and so forth. Then the Islamic Republic came to power and everybody became reasonably free and the people had the freedom to express their thoughts and ideas. They have become courageous and oppose the Islamic Republic and repeatedly accuse it and utter empty slogans through puppet publications financed from overseas and whose policies almost definitely come from overseas. They should be strongly shunned. [crowd chants death to counter-revolutionaries] [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Iran: Khonsari's Visit to Lebanon, Hizballah Viewed

NC1604183696 London MBC Television in Arabic 1518 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Kuwait Sulayman al-'As'usi interviewed Murtada Sarmadi, official spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, who is in Kuwait. The correspondent first asked him what Iran is going to do to calm down Hizballah.

[Begin recording] [Sarmadi, speaking in Persian with superimposed Arabic translation] What is now taking place is a continuation of the Israeli terrorist policies of killing, displacing, and attacking Muslims. Therefore, Islamic countries must cooperate and unite to prevent these aggressions from taking place.

Aid and assistance should be extended to the Lebanese people to enable them to hold out in the face of Israeli terrorism.

[Al-'As'usi] Mr. Khonsari, head of the Middle East Department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, is now in Lebanon. What is the message he is bringing for Lebanon and Hizballah?

[Sarmadi] The aim of Khonsari's current visit in Lebanon is to examine the latest developments, stands, and political issues of that country. The aim is also to examine and assess what assistance can be given to the Lebanese people, who have been displaced from their homes, and to consult over agreements signed with European countries, including France.

If Israel stops its attacks on peaceful areas in Lebanon, as has been agreed upon before, Hizballah will stop attacking Israel with Katyusha rockets. [end recording]

Iran: Tehran Students Demonstrate Against U.S., Israel

LD1604133396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] University students in Tehran [Province] gathered at noon today at Tehran University's mosque to express their contempt and abhorrence at the Zionist regime's barbaric and inhuman attacks and to condemn the unconditional support given by America to this inhuman action which has resulted in the killing of a large number of children, women, and innocent civilians.

The students protested at the latest tragedies in southern Lebanon and honored the memory of Lebanon's innocent victims and martyrs. According to the Central News Unit, the demonstrators chanted: Death to Amer-

ica; Death to Israel — condemning the savage actions of the usurper Zionists. They called on Muslims in Islamic countries to react to the criminal attacks of the Quds-occupying [Jerusalem-occupying] regime.

The report states that the demonstrators will march to the United Nations office in Tehran after Ayatollah Jannati ends his speech.

Iran: Iranian Jews Condemn Israeli Raids on Lebanon

LD1704082496 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — The Jewish Association of Iran, in a statement released here Wednesday, condemned the recent crimes committed by the Zionist regime in south Lebanon.

Expressing hatred over the aggression of Israeli military forces against the innocent Lebanese nation, the statement called on freedom-loving and honorable Jews throughout the globe to openly oppose such violations.

The association ended its statement by announcing its solidarity with the oppressed and defenseless people of south Lebanon.

Iran: U.S. Accused of Aiding Taleban To Smuggle Drugs Into Iran

LD1504173996 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 96 p 6

[From the "Social Desk" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam ['Ali] Fallahian [information minister], yesterday addressed a gathering of Islamic Revolution Court judges from all over the country, held at the Revolution Hotel [Tehran]. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Fallahian described the activities of drug Mafia gangs in Iran and the world.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian said: The Taleban group in Afghanistan, guided by America, has gathered Mafia gangs around itself and is busy pouring narcotics into Iran with the aim of keeping Iran's courts and law enforcement authorities busy and creating problems for the country. He said that the success of the fight against drug smuggling depended on the closure of the country's eastern borders, increasing intelligence activities, and exchanging views and experiences with specialists from other countries.

The information minister said that one way of limiting the activities of smugglers and addicts, who are repeat offenders, was to set up rehabilitation camps [shahrak] so that these addicts could live there with their families. [passage omitted]

The information minister added: The Intelligence Ministry has identified and destroyed several international smuggling rings that originated in Germany, France, and Turkey. Among these was an international narcotics smuggling ring that operated in Europe and the Middle East, and had a chief named Hamid Nowdayi. The members of the ring were active in three gangs and the chief himself had martyred 114 [figure as published] law enforcement officers in the course of several operations. The minister added that Nowdayi was arrested during the course of a bloody clash in Kerman.

Iran: Paper Defends Lack of Relations With U.S.

LD1304191196 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
8 Apr 96 p 3

[Editorial by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "Who Needs Relations?"; from the "Daily Note" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the day when America, in a so-called "warning act", severed its political ties with Iran — 9 April, 1980 — White House policy makers were hoping it to be taken as a threat! by the Islamic Republic of Iran. But our late Imam — God's blessing be upon him — with his wise vision, considered that the only positive act carried out by Carter — the then U.S. president — in all his life. He declared that the Iranian nation is justified to celebrate this severance. Ever since that day — particularly in recent years — the Americans have pursued reestablishing ties with Iran as one of their main goals and have been constantly frustrated in that. American statesmen have repeatedly and explicitly declared that one of their objectives in exerting pressure on Islamic Iran is to force Iran to review its stance vis-a-vis international issues while, on the other hand, our main and most specific international stance is to confront America and to sever ties with that arrogant power. When the issue of relations between Iran and America is raised, the first logical question that comes to mind is which one will benefit from a resumption of relations between Iran and America? In other words, which one of them needs that more and why?

A passing look at the events of recent years, particularly the emergence of various Islamist movements in the Islamic world and the accelerating and increasing resistance by anti-arrogance movements in today's world, clearly demonstrates that a radical change has taken place in the equations of power and America, which, until the victory of the Islamic revolution and recent world events used to have the last word at international level, not only has lost its former position, but also faces the anti-arrogance movements, particularly the Muslims' reawakening movement, as a serious and threatening danger. On the other hand, the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the standard-bearer

of the recent world movement and the leader and inspirer of anti-arrogance movements is undeniable. That role has been confirmed explicitly and apprehensively by the enemies many times and has seen the hopefulness of friends.

In order to get out of the cul-de-sac which America is facing as a result of the new world conditions, it has placed confronting Iran as one of its strategic objectives in its agenda. An important and decisive part of that confrontation is to sully the anti-American image of Iran. Establishing relations between America and Islamic Iran, which is pursued once in a while by American statesmen in various shapes and by various means and spoken of by some of our own people — we hope to God, out of ignorance — as a so-called necessity(!), is an effort to secure sorely needed American requirements. That is because the establishment of such ties, besides marring our revolutionary and anti-arrogance identity, will also cause those innocent nations which have taken Islamic Iran as their model to lose hope. And what is more vitally needed by America?! [passage omitted]

Today America's need to establish relations with Iran is far greater compared with past years since during those years Islamic Iran has traversed its path to advancement without contact with America. At the same time America, because of its confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran — the focal point of pure Mohammedan Islam —, has faced increasing anger and repugnance by the Muslim peoples and deprived nations every year. Briefly, which country would they propose as an acceptable model, those who advocated establishing ties with America? Are countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and... [ellipsis as received] with their pitiful conditions — which incidentally have exceedingly close and extensive relations with America — their utopias?

Iran: Editorial Criticizes Use of U.S. 'Propaganda' Methods

LD1604213996 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian
11 Apr p 2

[Editorial: "The Main Thing is the Judgment of History"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some people think that the West is a geographical entity and anyone who has been to a country in that part of the world becomes Western. According to these people, "borrowing models" has got nothing to do with the West [as published].

However, this is not the case. The West is not merely a geographical entity. It is also a cultural phenomenon,

just in the same way that we are known as the Orient, both because of our culture and our geographical position.

Although one political group refused to take part in the election campaign, but a number of new groups — and not parties — appeared on the scene. The way the groups dealt with each other and the nature of the campaigns showed that some could not tolerate others. It was also natural that each group would use its own levers to gain parliamentary seats. However there was optimism — and some people are still hopeful — that multiplication in the number of votes would not lead to an end to the separation of [state] powers.

The situation was such that after only a while, most of the voters became fully familiar with the positions of the participating groups. Although this was desirable, political labelling was something which was not appropriate for the statesmen of the Islamic system.

Political acceptability, righteousness, and legitimacy must make up the ingredients for the acquisition of power, and if a certain group is devoid of all these, it should not try to further its claim by a series of wheeling and dealing. A judicial official from Tehran recently took part in an interview and spoke about offenses during elections. He rightly proved the vigilance of the law. However, the Voice and Vision [radio and television], together with its news organ the Central News Unit, interpreted and broadcast his remarks in a way that served the interest of a particular faction.

If the intention is to facilitate the presence of people on the arena of political participation, then we should not undermine public trust by using the West's undesirable propaganda methods to further a specific faction's interests.

What is the people's fault that despite all the false news and wrong analyzes of the West, they still love their revolution and their political system and want to participate in deciding their country's destiny?

Do the people who write and execute such scenarios know the meaning of the concept of national interest? Do they have faith in what they do?

We, however, must have faith that the principle of judgment is inherent in history.

Iran: Tabriz Leader Denounces Turkish, Israeli Military Accord

*LD1204175896 Tehran IRNA in English
1727 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz (East Azarbaijan), Apr 12 (IRNA) — The Friday prayer congregation in

this northwestern provincial capital today denounced the recent military accord between Turkey and Israel regarding facilities offered to Zionist aircraft in Turkish air space.

The Friday prayer leader of Tabriz, Ayatollah Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, in his sermons, said the Ankara government by concluding such a pact with the illegal Zionist entity, has brought into question the Islamic identity of the Turkish Government.

The Turkish decision to cooperate militarily with the arch enemy of the Muslim world, has brought sharp criticism from many regional states, and is bound to draw the ire of the Turkish Muslim masses.

Leader of Turkey's Refah (Welfare) Party, Necmettin Erbakan, has already deplored the move of the Ankara government.

Ayatollah Shabestari, referring to the "illegal and undiplomatic" activities of a group of Turkish diplomats in Iran who have been asked to leave for spying, said the Ankara government seems to have "joined hands with the Zionist regime and the United States in their fight against the interests of Muslims."

He also criticized Ankara's attempts to impose its laic ideas on the newly independent states in central Asia and the Caucasus, and said that Turkey by exploiting the Azeri language, which is also spoken in the Republic of Azerbaijan, is broadcasting programmes to promote U.S.-Zionist interests in the region.

The Friday prayer leader said "the Muslim people of Iran are alert and will not let the satanic plots of America against the Islamic Republic succeed."

Iran: Paper Views Saddam's Moves To Restore Ties to West

*LD1304095696 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian
10 Apr 96 p 2*

[AKHBAR editorial: "America's Dream"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Iraqis lost the "Desert Storm" war to America's modern war technologies and returned home, Saddam Husayn began to reshuffle some key personalities. For example, he moved Tariq 'Aziz from the Foreign Ministry and Sa'dun Hamadi from the post of prime minister.

These two individuals, together with Taha Yasin Ramadan and 'Izzat Ibrahim, form the backbone of Saddam's regime.

Now that the economic pressures brought about by UN sanctions have troubled Iraq more than ever before, Saddam Husayn — believing that with the removal of

sanctions he can quickly regain his lost status in the region and the world — has appointed Sa'dun Hamadi to the post of parliamentary speaker, so that certain dire problems may be resolved.

Hamadi is a 66-year-old Shiite diplomat who has been educated in America. In the past, he used to be the oil minister, parliament speaker, and prime minister. He is one of those who is more loyal to his party than to his ethnic origins.

While Saddam Husayn is trying to use the Europe card to force America to lift the sanctions, inside Iraq he is trying to decide between the Shiite and Kurd populations of his country.

At present, the Kurds, given the international assistance and all the weapons they have received, will not accept anything less than autonomy. Saddam Husayn, on the other hand, is only too aware that he can no longer brutally suppress the Kurds, particularly given Europe's indication of support for them. The ruler of Baghdad, therefore, should respect the established deals and exchanges.

However, the Shiites may be appeased. The Ba'th party has followed such a policy in the past and is fully aware that this group is not after autonomy.

Hamadi has therefore a two-fold assignment in his new post. First, he must resolve the question of which group should be selected, and second, through contacts with the European parliament members, he has to find a way to save Saddam.

The Iraqis have mobilized all their means to remove the sanctions before a full compromise between the Arabs — in particular, Syria — and Israel can be reached, so as to enable them to repair and restore their long-standing relations with Europe and America.

Saddam Husayn wants to separate his destiny from the outcome of the dual-containment policy and find himself a place in the new camp.

The more Saddam gets away with this and the better his relations with Europe and perhaps America become, the more pressure will be placed on Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Want it or not, Syria must soon make a decision. After that, America will only have the Islamic Republic of Iran to cope with. This is what America wishes — a wish that many regional developments have taken place solely to ensure its fulfillment.

Iran: Majles Candidates Discuss Supreme Religious Jurisprudence

LD1604135096 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
11 Apr 96 pp2, 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran (IRNA): In an interview with IRNA here Tuesday, Majles candidates Maryam Behruzi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Reza Taqavi, Behzad Nabavi, and Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabadi offered their personal viewpoints regarding political, economic and religious topics. The following is excerpts from the interview.

Maryam Behruzi opined that the principle of membership at Iran's legislative assembly has its roots in the principles of Islam and the revolution. Those principles are founded on the velayat-e faqih [rule by a supreme jurisconsult]. The supremacy of the supreme religious jurisprudent is beyond the laws of the state. The religious legality of the political system in Iran is due to that principle. That is absolute authority rather than a form of leadership like that of China and the United States.

"Development and progress in every area must be along with social equity which is Islamic justice. Once we have faith in the principles and, as long as we advocate social equity conceived with economic development, we must then be especially concerned about our methods and practices.

"In our effort for doing so we shall be bounded by two things: first the ideological principles to which we adhere; second, the state of the nation. We will have to make laws to safeguard public interests. We believe that neither the masses nor the government should have the absolute rule, but that the absolute rule shall be the divine rule."

Behzad Nabavi reiterated, "To identify the priorities of the business of the Majles we must first divine the tasks of it. Secondly, we must identify the problems of the nation to give them the order of priorities in the Majles.

"The priorities that the Majles will have to tackle with will have to be identified on the basis of the most immediate problems of the nation. The proposition of the supreme religious authority having the absolute say in the nation, as is brought up by certain groups in the form of their campaign slogans, is not really the issue today. The clerics and the ulema have brought up the topics in a manner suggesting the fact of its having been challenged by other groups.

"As members of the Islamic revolution, mojahedin believe in the supremacy of the supreme religious authority as the most basic element in our platform. In the

early days of the victory of the Islamic revolution, hypocritical factions in the country opposed the principle of the absolute supremacy of the velayat-e faqih, but even then we insisted on that principle as the pivotal thought of the revolution.

"Belief in the supremacy of the velayat should be demonstrated in action.

"To protect national independence, freedom, social justice and also to ensure development and progress are among the first priorities in the business of the Majles. To justify foreign investment in Iran in the second national development plan and to merge with the international market will in the long run adversely affect our national independence. To increase government subsidies is not to promote social equity. As long as our economic structure leans towards capitalism we shall not have social equity."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taqavi underlined, "Freedom is a basic and fundamental issue in which other issues such as pertain to economy and development in their broad sense are involved. The first paragraph of the second national development plan defines the ways and means for attaining social equity.

"Mentioning of the proposition of the supreme act of the supreme religious ruler is a polemical argument. The society considers the velayat as its pivotal ideological principle and insists on the imperative of following the late Imam Khomeyni's line and on obedience to the leader which has also been dealt with in our canonical sources. The world is sensitive to that issue, but the proposition should not offer a weapon to some with which to discredit others."

Maryam Behruzi added that the argument on velayat has been going on in various circles during the past few years, with some tending to separate his religious role from his political role. With the intention to win the votes of the people, we must tell them our position very sincerely and in a straightforward manner. In our judgement, foreign policy should be delineated on the basis of velayat not according to centre-left or centre-right groups.

This position of ours should be brought to the knowledge of the people. This does not mean to violate freedom or to promote monopolism. That is not freedom to witness the presence in these elections of veteran liberals or novice liberals.

"As for the shape of our national foreign policy, we do not advocate liberalism. We do not approve of economic, cultural or social structures as advocated by centre-right or centre-left groups. But we tread a third

course which is the Islamic course and we shall act according to that."

Dr Mo'in commented, "the Majles will have three priorities in economic, cultural and social areas. In the area of economic programming such topics as improvement of our taxation system, adjustment of wealth in the society, and narrowing the gap between incomes as well as promoting the culture of personal economy and continuing national development should be in mind along with a commitment to safeguarding values, protecting the under-privileged masses, going on with our planning towards a national economy without oil, and monitoring with the use of the levers provided for in the constitution.

"Cultural priorities will consist of such enterprises as improving our administrative and social structure, promoting professionalism, advancement towards a true Islam, encouraging and promoting responsibility of the individual citizens to moralize others, and attention to cultural institutions and science centres."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taqavi said that foreign investment in Iran can be made consistent with note 22 of paragraph E of the law for the second national development plan. Within the bounds of that law foreign investors can invest in Iran, the government being obliged to present the law-bills thereon to the Majles.

"To amend a law would need law-bills for its amendment. You can oppose or challenge any thought or anything by expressing opposite views, but once something has been established as law it must be respected so that it can be carried out smoothly."

Behzad Nabavi added, "Foreign investment in Iran would prejudice cultural, social and political development. Our indigenous resources will not be adequate for our development projects, but on the other hand we must find out exactly how much and what level of foreign investment we will need.

"He said to Taqavi that to challenge a programme is not an offence, also your adversary can challenge all laws and all government administrators. That is not disrespect to law, but rather respect to law and will be consistent with the laws of the state. In the fourth session of the Majles you did not respect the second national development plan. The discrepancy between the approved budget and the second national development plan is proof of that."

He also told Maryam Behruzi, "If we do not realize [as published] then you can offer your own sample of an Islamic economy, and if you firmly believe that the second national development plan is a manifestation of an Islamic economy, then say so."

Behzad Nabavi also found fault with the challenge to the group of promoters of national construction by the struggling ulama of Tehran as a token of their monopolistic tendencies. Hojjat ol-Eslam Taqavi said the militant ulama of Tehran had only taken exception only to the purport of the first declaration of the stand of promoters of national construction.

He said cabinet ministers should not have declared the names of a group of Majles candidates because the idea would prejudice the normal operation of the Majles and would give a certain orientation to the future decisions of the Majles with respect to the administration."

Iran: Paper Criticizes IRNA Coverage of Story

LD1604214396 *Tehran RESALAT in Persian*
10 Apr 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Bijan Moqaddam: "Another Reason!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the instructions of the eminent leader, the judiciary is responsible for dealing with unlawful actions during elections and with "inconsiderate individuals who have spent extravagant sums of money out of public funds on their election campaigns".

The result of the judiciary's follow up, which indicated its resolute approach to the task, was announced yesterday by the head of Tehran province judicial office.

A report on the said interview was carried by the country's official news and information organ (IRNA), which serves as a source of news for a large number of Iranian and foreign media. Unfortunately, however, this report did not mention the main points of the story.

Was it not the case that the judicial official, Mr. Razini, had made it quite clear who the offenders were? Was it not the case that he had introduced Tehran municipality as an organization which had come first in the list of those violating election laws and unlawfully spending public funds? Did he not say that the offenses mainly concerned the activities of the "servants [of construction]," and gave the example of some building contractors who had been pressurized by the municipality into giving financial support to this faction's election campaign?

The question of why IRNA chose to "censor" the key points in the interview is something that the news agency's officials must answer.

In the past too, we have referred to the biased approaches of IRNA and the IRAN newspaper, and we had hoped that through actions by the minister of Islamic guidance, certain practices in these two "governmental" news organizations would be changed. However, the

most recent evidence shows that either no action has been taken, or if it has, it has not been very successful.

In any case, we invite the appropriate officials to start thinking about their actions instead of considering our friendly advice as "accusations." They should do so because the usefulness of a mass medium such as this depends on its reliability, its accuracy, and also the degree of its respect for the members of the public and their wish to be informed about current issues. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Pakistan: Foreign Office Condemns Israeli Attack on Lebanon

BK1604155796 *Islamabad PTV Television Network*
in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has condemned the Israeli attacks on Beirut and several other Lebanese towns, causing extensive loss of life and property. A statement issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad today, expressed serious concern at the escalation of Israeli attacks, which threatened prospects of peace in the region.

Pakistan: Envoy to UN Criticizes Israeli Policy on Palestine

BK1604135096 *Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas*
Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has expressed deep concern at the latest policies, practices, and actions taken by the Israeli authorities against the civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the holy city of al-Quds al-Sharif [Jerusalem]. Speaking at the UN Security Council last evening, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr. Ahmad Kamal, said Israeli measures of making al-Quds al-Sharif off limits to the Palestinian people and imposing stringent restrictions on their entry into the city have created enormous problems. He called upon the Security Council to take urgent measures to redress the current grave situation as it imperils the peace of the holy city of al-Quds al-Sharif.

Pakistan: Iran's Velayati Arrives; Afghan Issues Discussed

BK1604154196 *Islamabad PTV Television Network*
in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, flew into Islamabad today on a brief visit to have talks on bilateral relations, regional situation, and ECO [Economic Conference

Organization] affairs. In an interview with PTV, he said peace and tranquility will soon return to Afghanistan as a result of efforts being made by Pakistan and Iran.

[Begin recording] [Velayati] There are some issues which we are going to discuss. The question of Afghanistan is very important for both of us. We do hope that with cooperation of Iran and Pakistan in the future we will witness peace and tranquility in this country. For the time being let us [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Are the parties close to an agreement on the transfer of power in Afghanistan?

[Velayati] Just yesterday, my deputy Mr. Bourujerdi left Tehran for Kabul and the preliminary information that we have received from him is that he has had successful talks with them. That is what we are doing — Iran and Pakistan — and we do hope that in the future, we will have some more good news about the national reconciliation between different factions in Afghanistan. [end recording]

Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [president house] today. The Iranian foreign minister remained with the president for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest. He also delivered an invitation to the president for the inauguration of the rail link between Turkmenistan and Iran. The inauguration will be held on the eve of the ECO summit at Ashkhabad in Turkmenistan.

Pakistan: Iran's Velayati Meets Bhutto; Discusses Issues

BK1604161296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in Islamabad today on a two-day official visit to Pakistan. In a statement issued on his arrival, he said he would hold talks with Pakistani leaders on important regional and global issues, including Afghanistan. Later, Dr. Velayati called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari at President House today. He extended an invitation to the president to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the Turkmenistan-Iran rail link to be held on the occasion of the summit meeting of the Economic Conference Organization in Ashkhabad.

The Iranian foreign minister also called Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and handed over an invitation from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for her participation in the inaugural ceremony of the rail link. On this occasion, Dr. Velayati exchanged views on bilateral relations, including issues such as the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline, oil refineries, textiles, road links, and the pur-

chase of bulldozers. The situation in Afghanistan also came under discussion. The two sides agreed to make efforts for a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem as well as for national reconciliation among all the Afghan groups.

The prime minister drew the attention of Dr. Velayati toward the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan: French Air Force Chief Discusses Cooperation, Mirage

BK1704013296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General (Jean Georges Bribode), Inspector General of the French Air Force, met with Air Marshal Mohammad Arshad Chaudhary, acting chief of the Pakistan Air Force, in Rawalpindi today. On this occasion, matters pertaining to cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries, including the induction of 2005-type Mirage aircraft into the Pakistani Air Force were discussed.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Air Force received a second minesweeping vessel, PNS [Pakistan Naval Ship] Muhafiz, from France yesterday. This ship was inducted into the Pakistani Navy in France, where Pakistan Navy Chief Admiral Mansurul Haq was present.

Pakistan: Bhutto Speaks on Foreign Policy, U.S. Arms Package

BK1604131596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said her government with the cooperation of the masses has given the country political stability to ensure economic and social progress under well thought out policies. She was addressing a news conference in Islamabad at her parliamentary chamber this morning. She said the Pakistan People's Party government has come into power through the active support of the masses and in turn it would not spare any effort to ensure the welfare and well being of the people.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said in the field of foreign policy they have given the nation a clear-cut vision laying more emphasis on Asia, Central Asia, and the Gulf. The government has been able to attract international attention toward the problem of Kashmir. The prime minister welcomed the American official announcement yesterday for the release of held-up defense equipment under the Pressler Amendment to Pakistan and said President Clinton has lived up to his promise made during her visit to the United States. She said all this has been possible despite strong opposition by India.

She told a questioner that it was a decision of internal meetings that Pakistan would see the return of its money instead of F-16's.

About the petroleum prices, she said these are fixed under deregulated mechanism and assured a questioner that the government would look into the question of importing petroleum products through the private sector as against the present state monopoly. Answering a series of questions, the prime minister declared that there is no judicial crisis in the country and despite its reservations, the government has implemented the recent Supreme Court decision about appointments in the superior judiciary.

Pakistan: PML-N Leader Assures Imran Khan of Support

BK1604124996 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
16 Apr 96 pp 1, 10

[Report from THE NEWS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] President Nawaz Sharif on Monday [15 April] visited the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust (SKMT) hospital and inspected the damage caused by the powerful explosion that jolted the premises a day earlier.

Nawaz was warmly received by Imran Khan at the hospital gate. Imran told Nawaz that the police were not even willing to admit it was a bomb explosion and were insisting that the air conditioner plant had exploded. He told the opposition leader that the bomb contained five kg of explosives.

Imran, on this occasion, clarified that there is a difference between a political party and a movement. "I will announce my programme this month as scheduled."

Nawaz patting Imran's shoulder assured that his party would always be there to help the planned movement. He assured Imran, "We will work shoulder to shoulder for the accomplishment of your reforms."

Talking to newsmen after the visit, Nawaz said the bomb explosion has exposed the government's failure in controlling the law and order situation. He regretted that the government is blaming the opposition for the incident instead of accepting the responsibility.

He advised the government not to take political mileage out of the explosion and hold an impartial inquiry to expose the culprits.

Responding to a question regarding the increasing incidents of violence in Lahore, Nawaz said, "We also want to know the murderers of Javed Ashraf. We want to know who allowed police to target the PML-N women activists and who was responsible for the bomb blast in the SKMT hospital."

Meanwhile, Imran Khan told a group of newsmen at SKMT hospital that he does not desire to meet Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto after two years of bitter memories of the government's efforts against the hospital.

"I cannot receive the prime minister with a smiling face as this act on my part would be considered as an act of sheer hypocrisy, which I cannot do. I have never bowed before anyone nor will I do it in the future," Imran said.

He said he does not intend to form a political party but has always wanted to inform the people about his ambition to bring about a change in the system.

He said he cannot say anything at this stage as to who is responsible for blast. "This can also be done by people who are afraid of me."

He asked the government to conduct an impartial inquiry and should not hush up the issue. He said he can also raise a political slogan after this event but he is convinced that political benefits should not be gained in this manner.

When his attention was drawn towards the donation announced by the prime minister, Imran said everyone knows the details of the restrictions and ban imposed by the Prime Minister during the construction and completion of the hospital.

"Despite these official acts, we completed the project successfully. Contrary to the government restrictions, it was the people who supported the project and participated in the fund raising campaign."

He accused the Prime Minister of staging a drama by visiting the hospital and termed it as an attempt to befoul the people.